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Vendetta Scans

Soul Cartel - Chapter 61

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Raw Link: http://comic.naver.com/webtoon/list.nhn?titleId=423384

61

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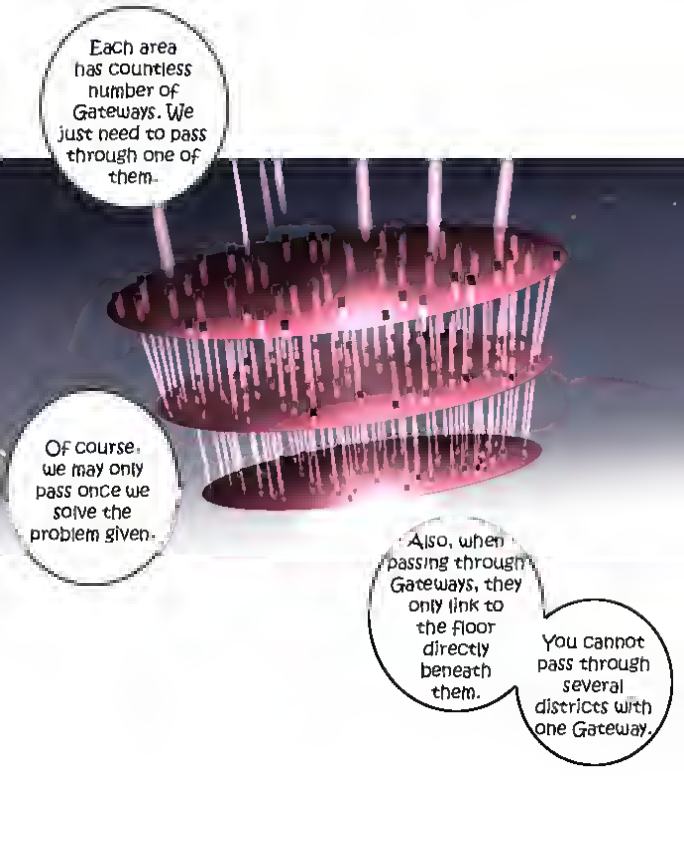
Welcome everyone. This is the 267th Gateway
It has been a long time since humans last arrived.

Oh top of that, even Mephisto-him..
ARE ALL GATE-KEEPERS THIS SMALL...?
HOW CUTE..
Sup.

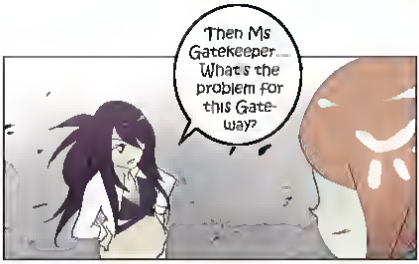
Mephisto-nim has permission to pass any Gateway. He is a Archdevil after all.
Kyakyakya~ Of course~
SFX: WIGGLE
YEAH, GOOD FOR YOU...

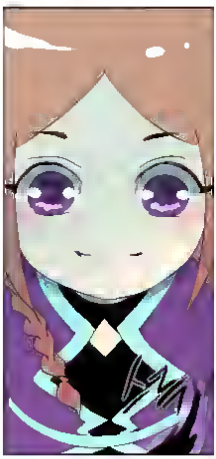
So basically, . . Faust.
If we pass through here, we can enter the 2nd prison district, right?
Correct. The only way to pass through different districts is through the Gate-ways.

Just as we had to pass through a Gateway when we entered the Underworld, we must pass through a Gateway in order to move from the 1st prison district to the 2nd
But compared to the last Gateway, this one is larger and shaped differently
Just as how each Gateway has a different trial... The shape and size also differs.
There is no set standard.

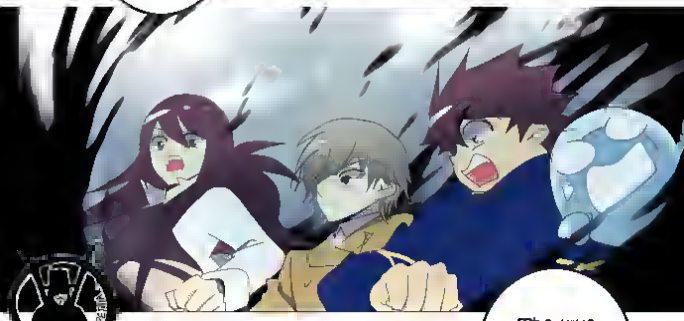

Each area has countless number of Gateways. We just need to pass through one of them.
Of course, we may only pass once we solve the problem given.
Also, when passing through Gateways, they only link to the floor directly beneath them.
You cannot pass through several districts with one Gateway.

I see... Then in order to go to the 4th prison district, we need to pass through the 2nd and 3rd district as well.
Correct.


Then Ms Gatekeeper... What's the problem for this Gateway?



This Gateway is the rank directly above the lowest rank, Rank E. A D-minus Gateway.
SFX: SHHHHH
The trial must be solved by the individual, so the number of people who may pass depends on how many solve the trial.
The trial is to. .
Find the true Gateway and enter it.
SFX: SPREAAD



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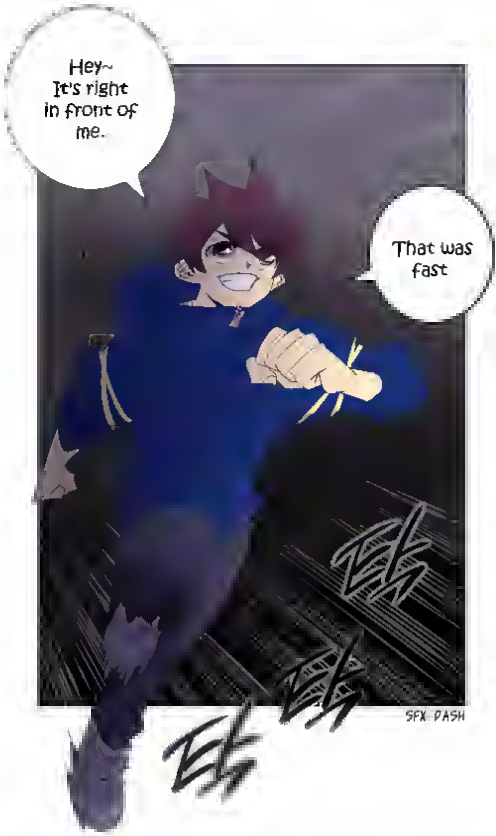
FIND THE TRUE GATEWAY WITHIN THE DARKNESS AND ENTER IT. IF YOU CANNOT FIND IT, WANDER IN THE DARKNESS FOR ETERNITY.

...This is?
NOONA!!
FAUST!!
Is nobody here?
I can't see because it's so dark.
NOONA!! FAUST!!
ANSWER ME!!
NOONA, WHO WAS CALLED UGLY BY AN ARCH-DEVIL--!!

...I guess nobody can hear.
An individual trial... Looks like I really have to search for the Gateway myself.

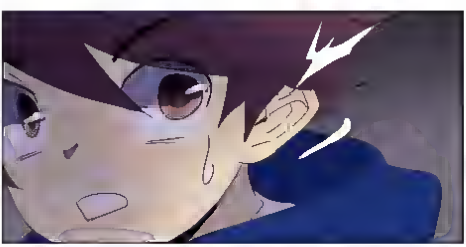

Hey~
It's right
in front of
me.
That was
fast
SFX DASH

I'm already
finished. .
DASH

POP
Huh?

SHWOOP
Huh?
What the?

SHWIP
What's going on...?
I'm sure I passed through the gate...
SHWIP

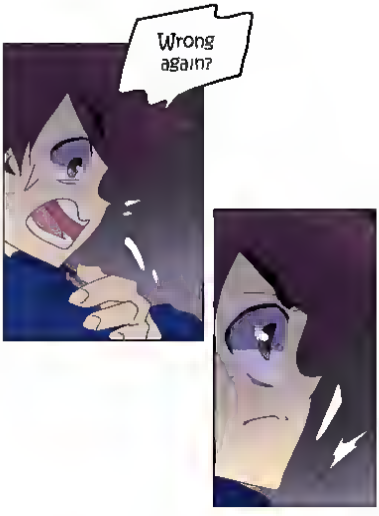


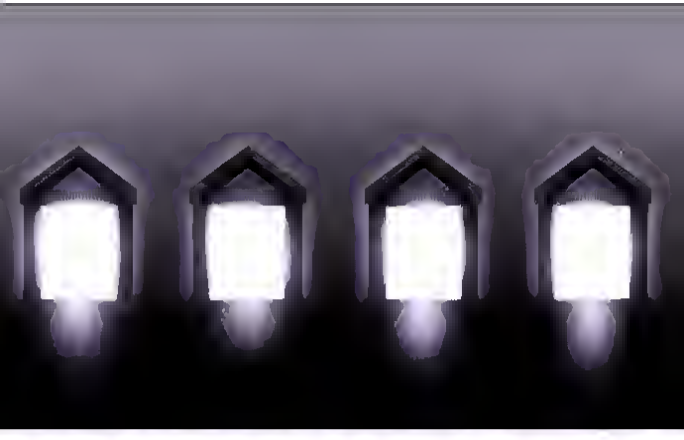
Two.. Gateways?!
..What's going on?

So I just need to enter one of the two gates?
Which one should I enter?

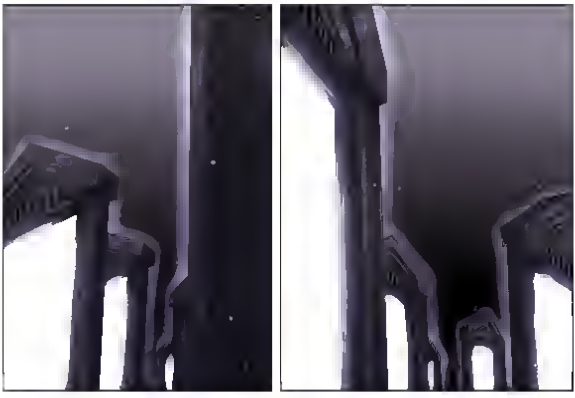
They look exactly the same...

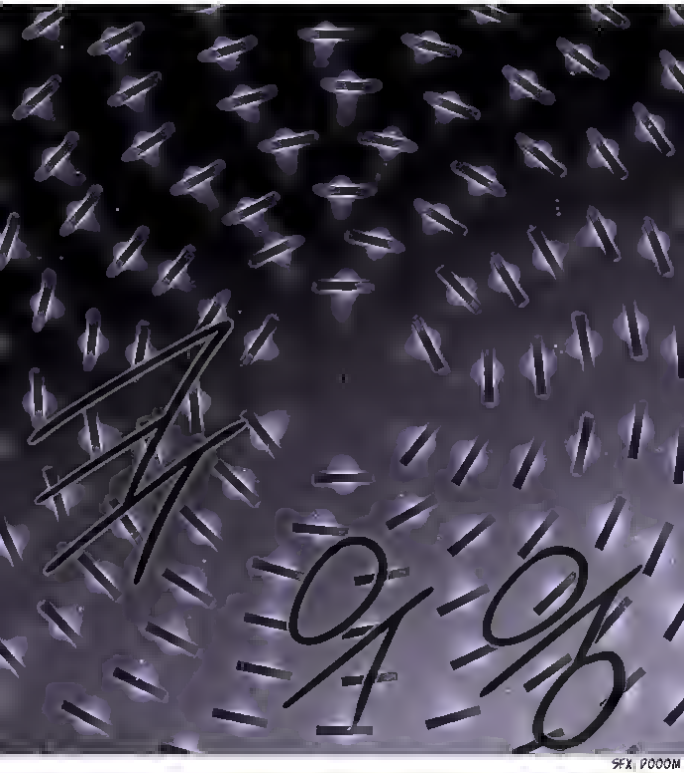
USING BEAD HIGH QUALITY SCANS AT
Baioto net


Wrong again?



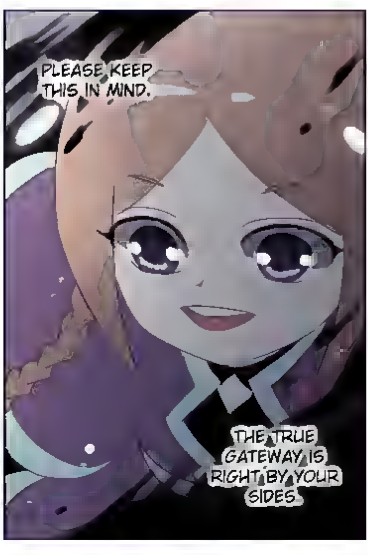
THE GATES MULTIPLIED INTO FOUR?!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?!



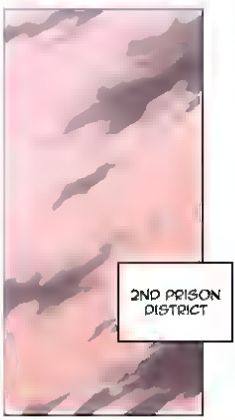

SFX: DOOOM

I don't get it.
Every time I enter, the number of Gateways increases!

I was told to find the true Gateway and enter it, but. .
Now there are so many, I don't know which one to head into~!


PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND.
THE TRUE GATEWAY IS RIGHT BY YOUR SIDES.

WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!
NO MATTER WHICH ONE I ENTER, I CAN'T GET OUT!!
WHERE THE HELL IS IT?!


2ND PRISON DISTRICT

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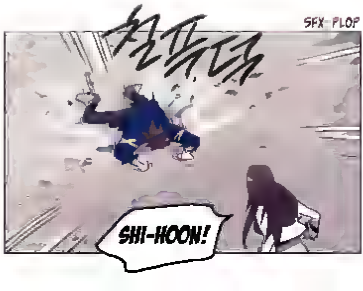
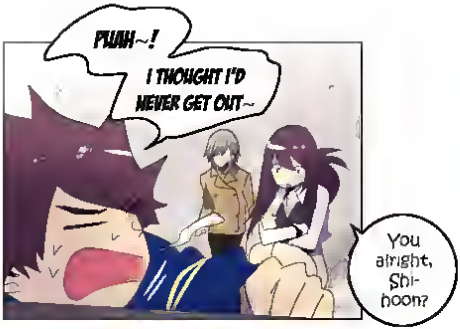
SFX FLAAASH

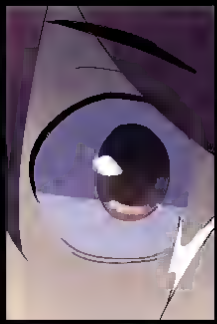
I'M OUT!!
SFX WHISH


SFX FLOP
SHI-HOON!


PUAH~!
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET OUT~
You alright, Shi-hoon?

Ooh... Even fighting would have been easier.
These kind of stuff are too hard for me.

To think... The location of the true Gateway ..
Was right there.
PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND. THE TRUE GATEWAY IS RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE.
...
BY MY SIDE...
TURN
TURN



SAID RISE
벌떡
DON'T TELL ME...
WHEN SHE SAID BY MY SIDE

THE TRUE GATE IS NOT...
IN THE COUNTLESS GATES IN FRONT OF ME...
BUT ACTUALLY...
RIGHT...
HERE...!
SFX: GLOW
SFX: FLAAAAASH

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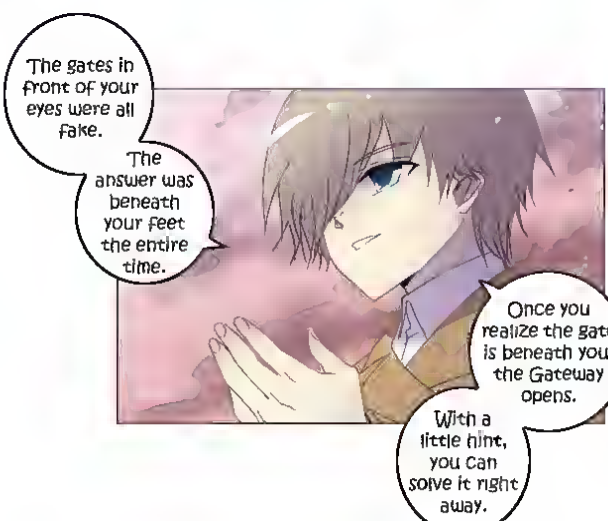
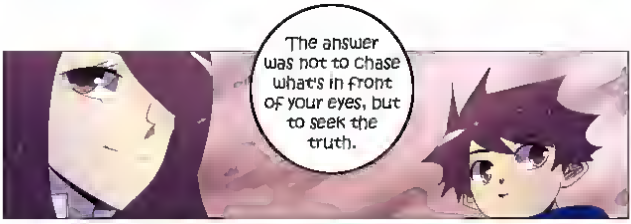
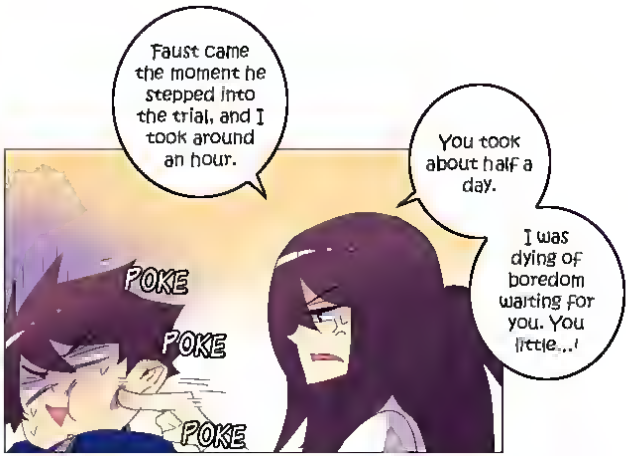
To think the Gateway was right below me...
That's right.


The gates in front of your eyes were all fake.
The answer was beneath your feet the entire time.
Once you realize the gate is beneath you, the Gateway opens.
With a little hint, you can solve it right away.


The answer was not to chase what's in front of your eyes, but to seek the truth.

By the way, when did Noona come out?
...


Faust came the moment he stepped into the trial, and I took around an hour.
You took about half a day.
I was dying of boredom waiting for you. You little...!
POKE
POKE
POKE

So what.
I'm not last.

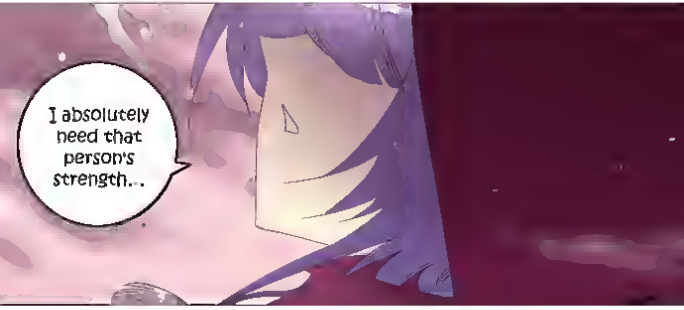
That guy
is still left!
!!

SWOOSH~
.....
That damn
perverted
soul...

IN THE END,
THE PARTY HAD TO
WAIT ANOTHER DAY
z
z
z

AH OH OH
SFX WHOOOOSH

I have to hurry and find him...


I absolutely need that person's strength...

The Archdevil
Mephistopheles.
SFX | FWOOOOOSH

SOUL CARTEL
소울 카르텔
To be continued

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Soul Cartel - Chapter 62

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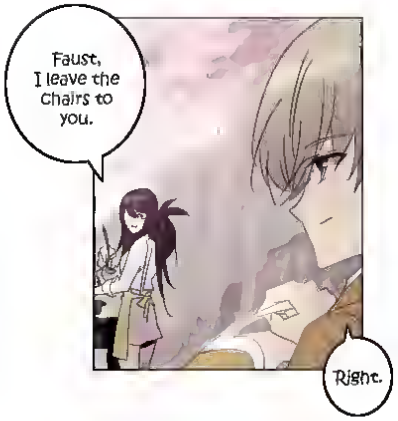
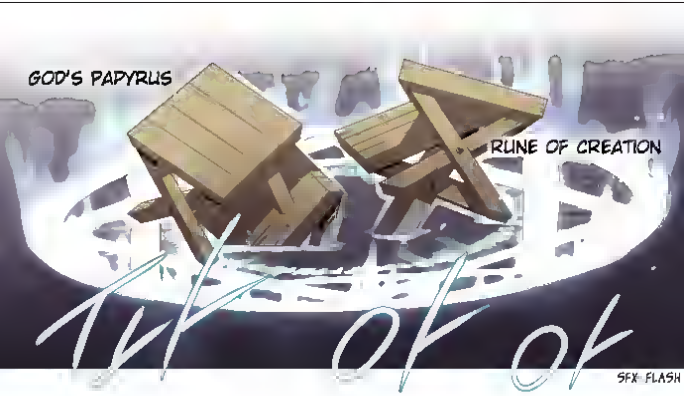
SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

62

Good, the taste is just right.
Shi-hoon, set up the table.
Already on it.
CLACK
Hoh~


Faust, I leave the chairs to you.
Right.

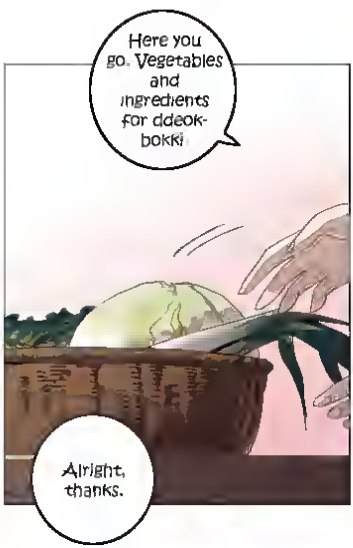

GOD'S PAPYRUS
RUNE OF CREATION
SFX: FLASH

Ms. Soo-in, the seats are all ready.
Thank you~ By the way, there isn't enough vegetables as well.
..Understood.

...Noona, You could just ask Faust to create everything. Why are you taking the time to cook?
WHAT A PAIN

What's wrong with cooking food once in a while? What, got a problem?
N-No.. Wow, that looks delicious~ I'm so hungry~
SWISH

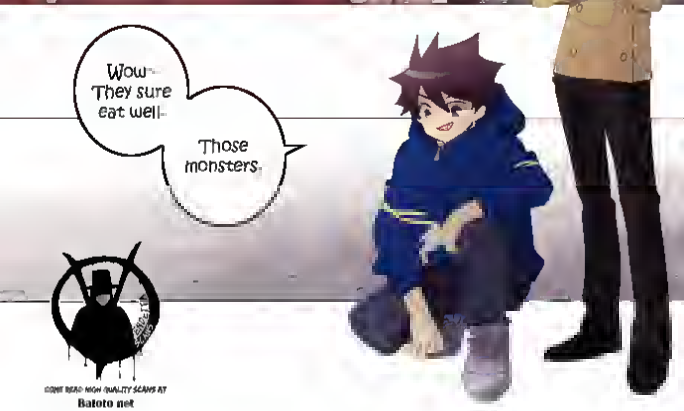
Hey, spirit medium. Is there no ddeokbokki? The spicy kind.
I'll make some of that, too. Faust, prepare the ingredients
LEAN
Right.


Here you go. Vegetables and ingredients for ddeok-bokki
Alright, thanks.

Well then, I'll go scout the surroundings for anything dangerous.
The food will be ready soon, so come back fast.
I'll come with you.

If I stay here, noona will keep ordering me around. It's best to run away~
...

오빠
오빠
오빠
오빠



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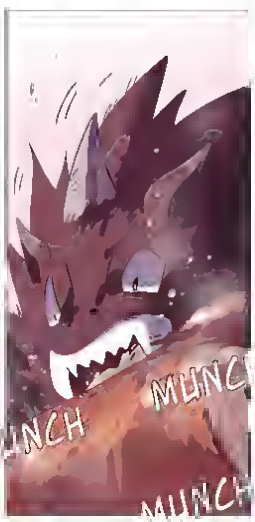
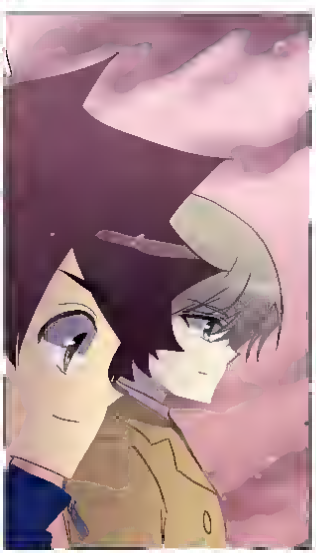
By the way Faust, why are you giving meat to those monsters?
Full predators will not go and hunt
This is the prevailing logic in the Underworld.

Basically, even if we're staying near them...
As long as we purposely fill those monsters' stomachs, they will not attack us
This is just a precauti-onary measure.
Oh! I see!

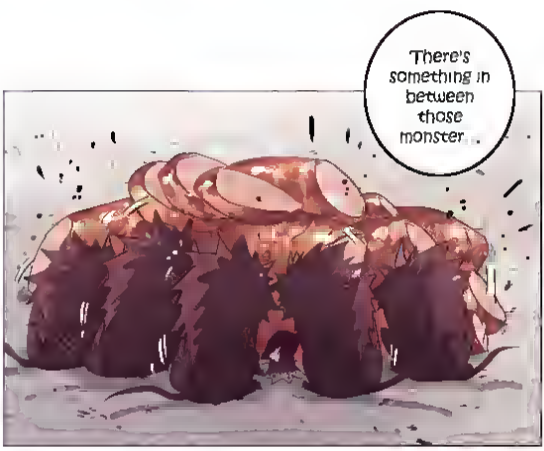

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

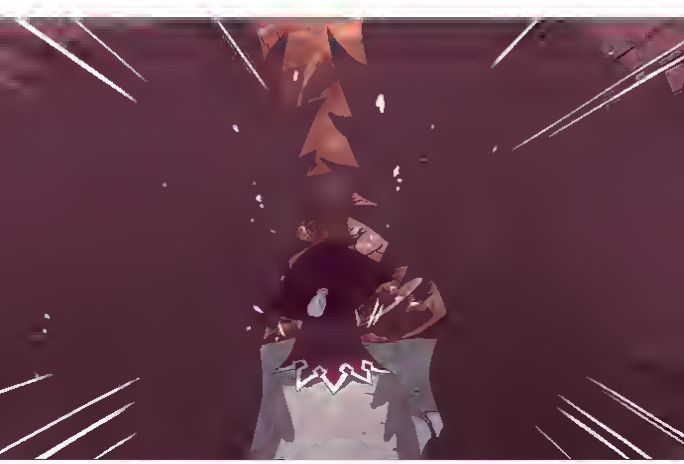


After looking at them, I'm suddenly reminded of Minotaurus and Cerberus.
I wonder how they're doing?

Let's go and distribute some more meat.
Okay.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

Faust.
What's that?


There's something in between those monster..



SWOOSH

NO!! MEAT!! MY MEAT~!!!
I COULD'VE ATE MORE~!!!
STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE
Meat..?
So you were eating together with them?

I apologize ...
I didn't have a bite in 3 days, so I just .. It seems I have shown you all something shameful
N-No, well ..

I was starving, and there was this delicious scent ..
After following the scent, I found a huge pile of meat ... After seeing that, I-I just ..

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Y-Yes. I am a witch
How did you know I was a witch?
W-WITCH?
SFX. STAND
Your outfit...
And your violet hair and eyes.
They are particular to the clan of witches
But, I believe witches usually travel together in a party..
Could you be by yourself, witch-nim?
That's.. There's been an incident.

And I must find the Archdevil, Mephisto-pheles-nim!

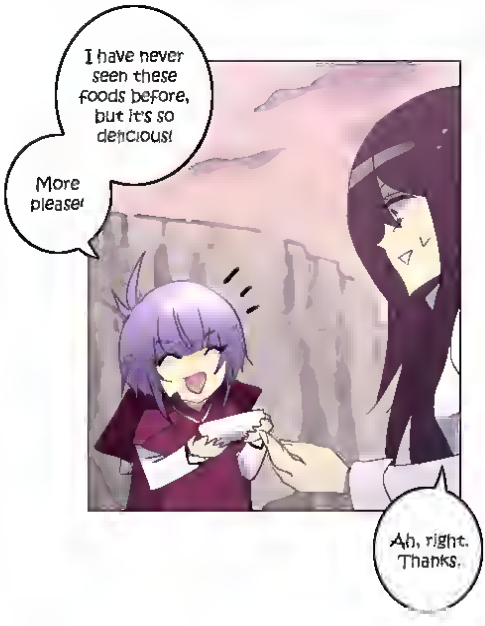
!!

So to sum it up...
REACH

She came here in order to ask Mephisto-pheles for a favor.

don't know the specifics, but I think only Mephisto can help her out.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
CHEW
CHEW

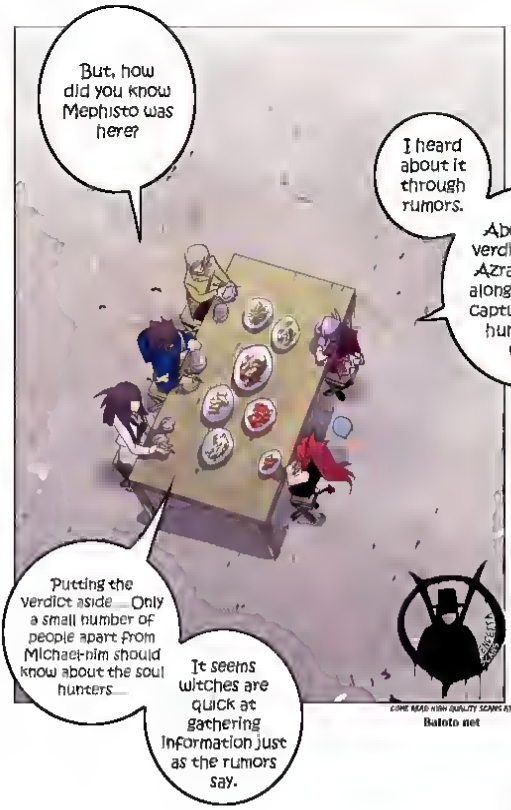
But why am I the one explaining?!
Ah... My name is Airen
Not your name!!
T/N: COULD BE AILEEN OR SOMETHING, BUT IT'S LITERALLY PRONOUNCED AIREN


I have never seen these foods before, but it's so delicious!
More please!
Ah, right. Thanks.

Ohh, cute witch girl~ How old are you~?
I'm 321. Still very young
V-Very young, huh. .

By the way, Airen. Do you and Mephisto know each other?
Of course.
Huh? I don't remember meeting you!

You came to the Witch's castle 10 years ago.
When you met the Supreme Witch in the reception hall, I saw you through the crack of a door.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS, THEN!!


But, how did you know Mephisto was here?
I heard about it through rumors.
About the verdict in the Azrael court along with the capturing soul hunters as well.
Putting the verdict aside... Only a small number of people apart from Michael-nim should know about the soul hunters...
It seems witches are quick at gathering information just as the rumors say.
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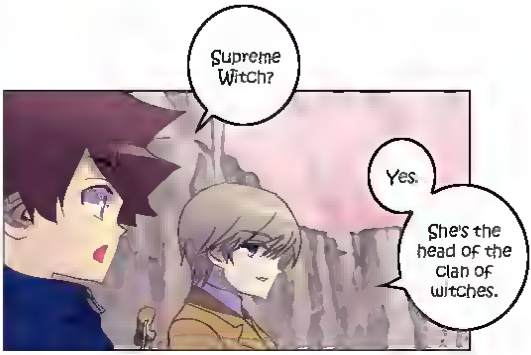
Is the Supreme Witch doing well?
Do you know the Supreme Witch?
Yes, we are acquaintances.

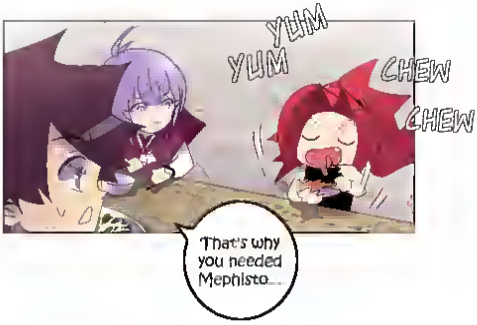

Supreme Witch?
Yes.
She's the head of the clan of witches.

500 years ago... I briefly met her when I first formed a contract with Mephisto.
Back then, I was really old.
At that state, it was difficult to obtain a victory from Mephisto.
That's why Mephisto took me to the Supreme Witch. She fed me a special witch's potion and restored my youth.

I presume the Supreme Witch is still the same as ever? She was quite a prudent person.
To tell the truth... That's the reason why I'm here.
She has caught an illness and isn't getting any better.

Is it a life-threatening illness?
We still don't know what the illness exactly is...
That's why everyone is quite worried.

But you're telling me that Mephisto can heal her?
Yes. If medicine does not work, then it means we need to use another method.
If it's Mephisto-nim, he should somehow be able to deal with it.


YUM
YUM
CHEW
CHEW
That's why you needed Mephisto...

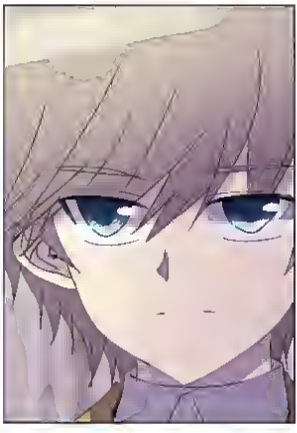
Mephisto-him...
No
I haven't even asked anything yet.
I heard everything I needed to hear. You're asking me to help.
Too much of a pain.

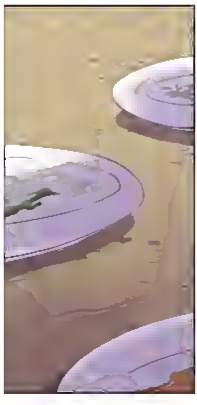
But I took the trouble to come all the way here..
I even starved for 3 days..
DOOM
It's your fault for trying to get a favor from a devil.
I don't wanna.

Here...
It's a formal request issued by the council of witches
HAND

BLAZE

As expected of a devil...
...

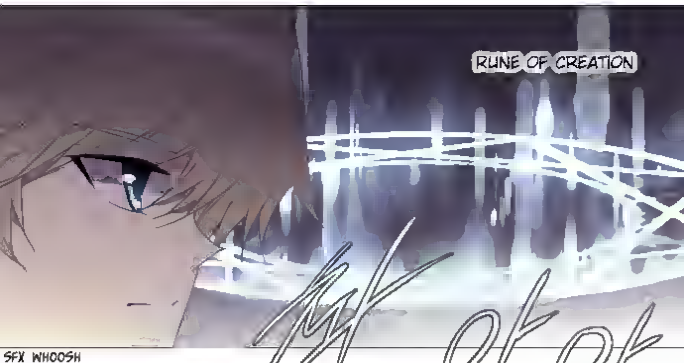




Ah~ I'm stuffed.

Now that I'm full, I'm getting sleepy~
Faust, are you going to take out the tent?
Nope. This time, I want to try creating something different.

I have something new prepared this time
SFX: FWOOSH


RUNE OF CREATION
SFX WHOOSH

SFX SHWOOOOOO

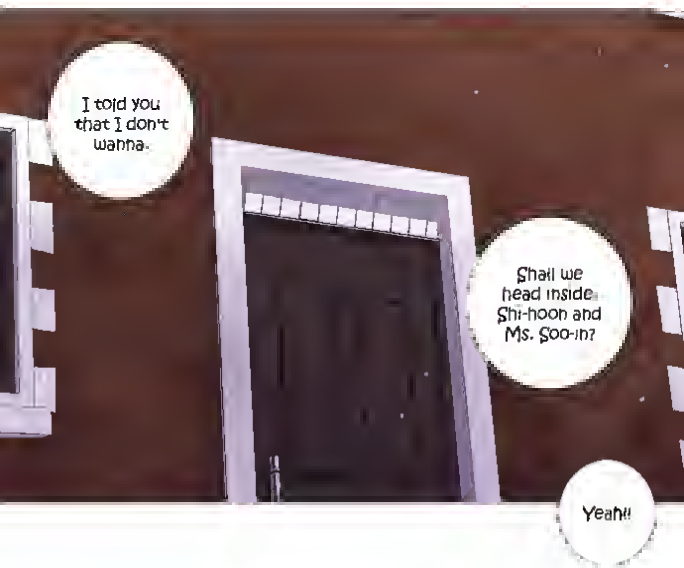
SFX: WHOOOOOO

…!!!

Hoh!

FAUST!! THIS IS A HOUSE, RIGHT?!!
YOU CAN MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
The Rune of Creation... Out of anything I have seen...
I can create it as long as I understand the structure, principle, and design.
However, since my skills with God's Papyrus was lacking...
I was only able to create simple goods .
After my bout with that trap shaman and creating the Maze of Infinite... I have understood and learned many things.
Thanks to that, I am now able to create more complicated and difficult objects as well.
Woooow~ I'm impressed!! Amazing!!

Wooow! Faust-nim! You're incredible!!
Ah, yes. Thank you.
Why the hell are you still here?
I have to bring back Mephisto-nim, of course.


I told you that I don't wanna.
Shall we head inside, Shi-hoon and Ms. Soo-in?
Yeah!!

SOUL CARTEL
소울 카르텔
To be continued
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Soul Cartel - Chapter 63

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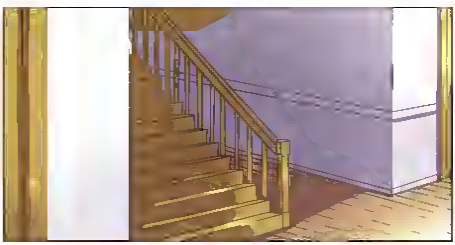
SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

63

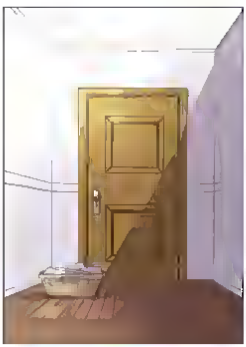


Wow~ We were sleeping in a tent just yesterday...
But today we're inside this huge house!
This was my first time, so I'm glad it turned out well.

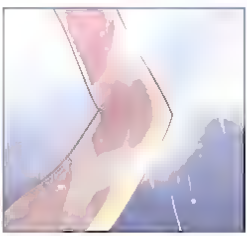
For now, I have designed electricity and plumbing within this household.
Although it won't run within the Underworld for too long, it should be enough for about six hours.

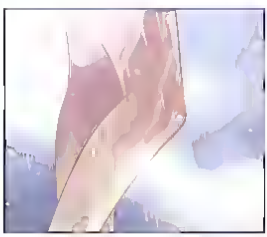
Once I get more used to this, I'll be able to create a better place to stay
Ohh~ At this rate, will you be able to create a castle?!
GULP
GULP

DRIP
Tastes bad.



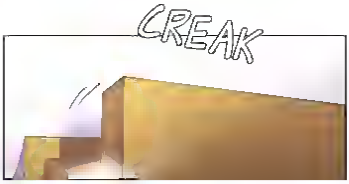
SHWAAAA





SHIN AAA

TO THINK I'D TAKE A BATH IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...


CREAK

Ah~ How refreshing.
After such a nice bath, I feel great~

I lost the opportunity of a lifetime...
Stop struggling, damnit!
And what life time? You're a soul already.

Shi-hoon, go on and wash up.
Heh~ I'm tired so I was thinking about just going to bed ..

Should I put you to sleep right now?
SHWIP
It's been a while since my last bath, hasn't it?

Faust, let's go together.
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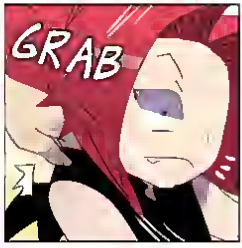
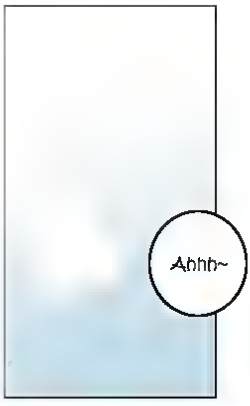
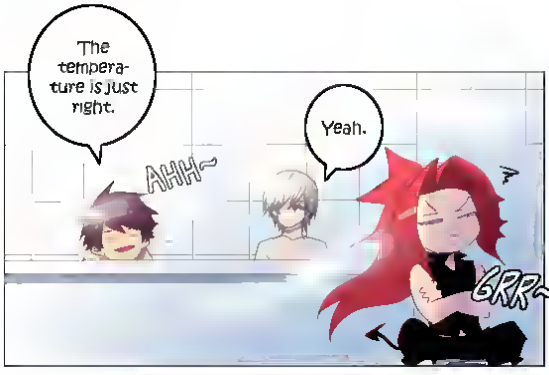
Al-right.


GRAB

You too, Meph-isto.
STEP
STEP
??????


Ahhh~


The temperature is just right.
AHH~
Yeah.
GRR~

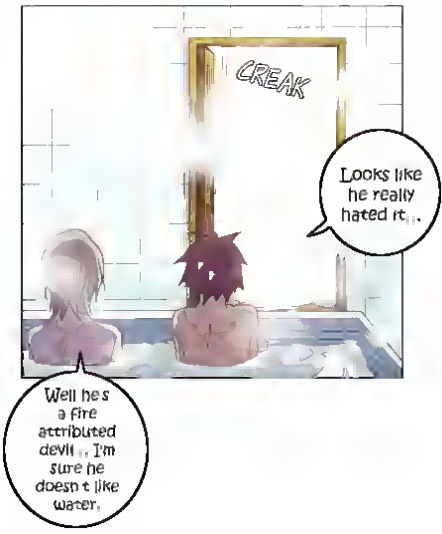
Why'd you bring me along?
This has nothing to do with me.

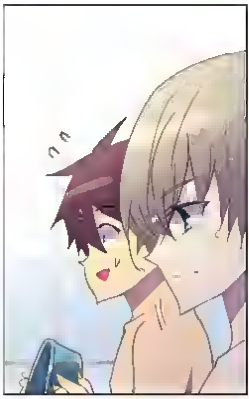
SPLASH

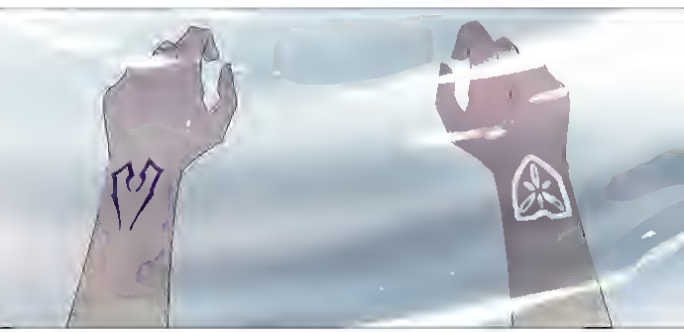
A devil should also wash up
…!!

SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
WAH!!

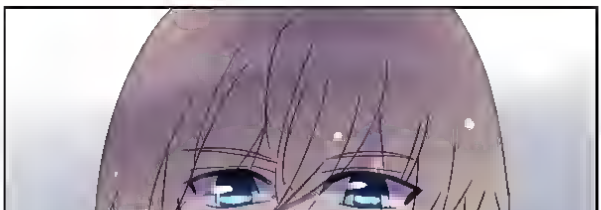
THIS AIN'T FUN AT ALL!!
SFX. SLAM

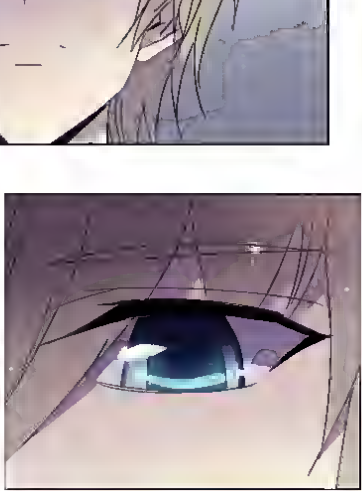

CREAK
Looks like he really hated it...
Well he's a fire attributed devil... I'm sure he doesn't like water.

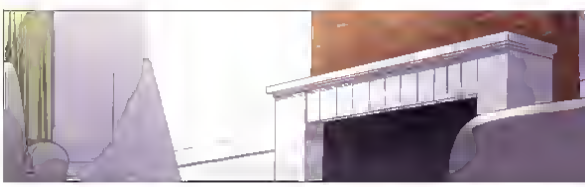


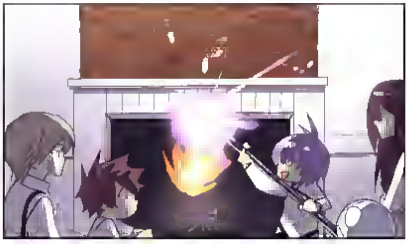


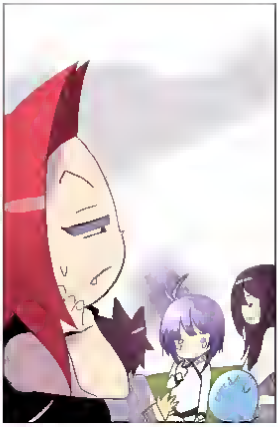
AN ARCHDEVIL'S STIGMA...
ALONG WITH AN
ARCHANGEL'S CREST...











Z
z

CREAK
Faust-
him...
What are you doing?
Airen.
As for me... Sleep doesn't come easily.
Is Faust-him not going to bed?

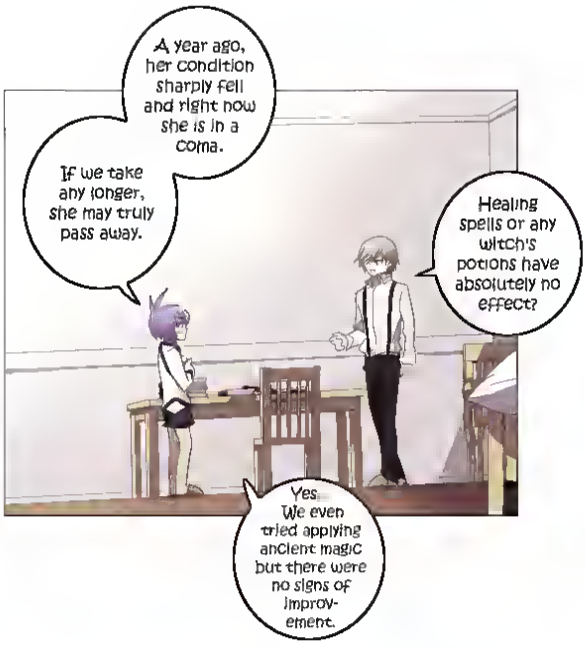
...The moment I lose my consciousness, this house made with the rune of creation will disappear.
So I have decided to take advantage of this time to read a book.
But that means you cannot get any sleep .. Aren't you tired at all?
I am fine. It isn't that I do not sleep, sleep does not come to me.
It seems .. As a reincarnated human.. This could be a side effect...
To recalling all my memories.

Faust-nim .. Actually managed to win against Mephisto-pheles-nim.
That was one of the most famous incidents within the Underworld
That is something that took place 500 years ago. Something that occurred before Airen was even born
It was a long time ago.

Faust-nim .. About that ..

Could you tell me...
The method of persuading Mephisto-nim?

The Supreme Witch is currently ill.


A year ago, her condition sharply fell and right now she is in a coma.
If we take any longer, she may truly pass away.
Healing spells or any witch's potions have absolutely no effect?
Yes... We even tried applying ancient magic but there were no signs of improvement.

Forgive me, but allow me to ask...
Trying to bring an Archdevil is not a task given by an upper ranked witch but by your Airen's own accord, correct?
...!

What could you be possibly talking about...?
It hasn't even been 6 weeks since I have become a lower ranked witch.
It isn't in my position to leave on my own accord...
No, that is not what I mean. What I want to say is...
Attempting to bring an Archdevil by yourself is an incredibly dangerous task. One mistake could cost you your life.
!
Telling a lower ranked witch to carry this dangerous task by yourself is...

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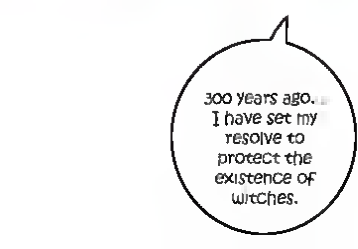
...Thank you for your concern.
However... This was the task I was assigned.
This is because I want to save the Supreme Witch no matter what.

I lack experience in magic. I also lack knowledge.
However, not only the Supreme Witch, but all of the witches Have assigned this task to me, who was sorely lacking.
I do not want to lose such an important person. I want to do my best in order to protect her.
Of course... This isn't only for the sake of the Supreme Witch.



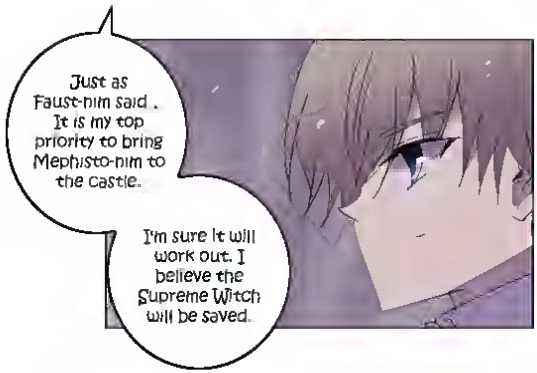
So that leaves me no other choice.
...I understand.
?

Faust-nim, is this really alright?
Do not worry.
Before we had entered the house... This was something I had discussed beforehand with Ms. Goo In and Shi-hoon.
To be honest, I was planning on telling Ajren of this in the morning. Things just happened to move faster than planned...

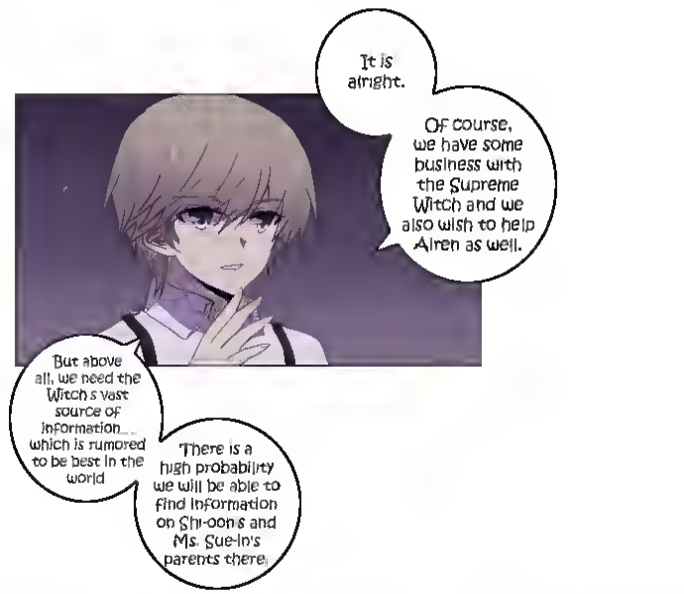
What I handed you just now... Is a pass to enter all the Azrael bases.
We are under some circumstances... But that is something we have received from the Archangel Michael.

Without this, one cannot pass through any Azrael bases. It is something of grave importance.
Take that and return to the Witch's castle.
With this, Mephisto will be furious and will chase after Airen. All the way to the Witch's castle.
This is an urgent problem. That decides life and death for the Supreme Witch. We do not have time to take our time and try and persuade Mephisto.
Also, there are no guarantees in persuading him, either.
In order to take him right away, this is the only way.
However... This could endanger not only Airen, but the entire population of Witches.
Please take heed.

Under-stood.


Just as Faust-nim said. It is my top priority to bring Mephisto-nim to the castle.
I'm sure it will work out. I believe the Supreme Witch will be saved.

With that much resolve, I'm sure you will succeed.
Once you return to the castle...
You must absolutely discuss the method I have told you of. You will not find a better method than that.
With that method, you will be able to receive help from Mephisto and resolve the problem without much issues
... Alright.


It is alright.
Of course, we have some business with the Supreme Witch and we also wish to help Airen as well.
But above all, we need the Witch's vast source of information... which is rumored to be best in the world
There is a high probability we will be able to find information on Shi-oon's and Ms. Sue-in's parents there.

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This is because... Shi-hoon, Ms. Soo-in, and I...
Us three humans... Have been marked by all the demons within the Underworld.
...?!

SOUL CARTEL
소울 카르텔
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One week before, we took part in capturing soul hunters along with the Head Angel Cherub
We arrested all of the soul hunters and rescued the captured souls.
Luckily, we managed to end the case safely, but...
Thanks to a huge fight that took place, our existences became known to the demons.
Especially so, since the fight between Mephisto and Nigul was at a tremendous scale.

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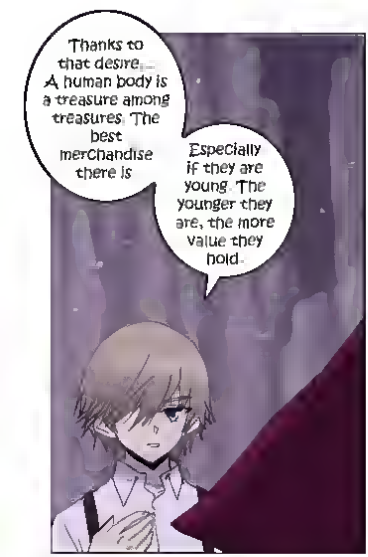
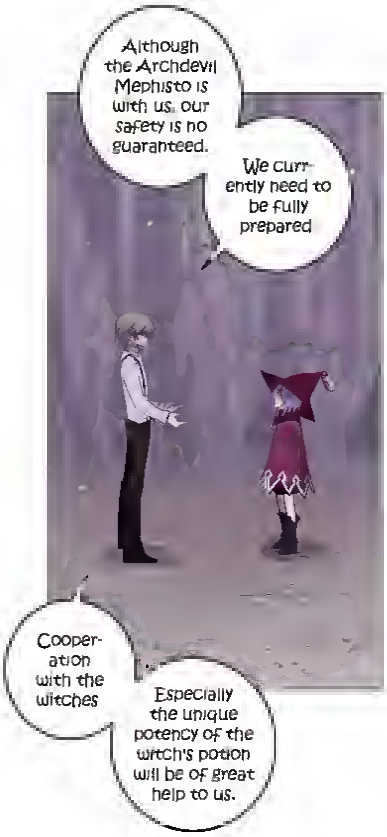
The problem is the demons train of thought
Compared to the human bodies made by God, the bodies of demons have a weakness of being unstable
Only after devouring other souls as nourishment are they able to maintain their life
If there are no souls Killing other demons and devouring their souls is a common thing
Eat or be eaten
That is... The hell they themselves have created

Within that endless course of survival of the fittest... The demons have come to value one thing above anything else.
That is the twisted desire to steal a human's body...
And escape from the hell they have created.


Thanks to that desire... A human body is a treasure among treasures. The best merchandise there is
Especially if they are young. The younger they are, the more value they hold.

We have become known by the demons throughout the world
From now on, as we travel, countless demons will attack us in hopes for our bodies...
And amongst them, those who rival the Angels and Azrael in strength will appear

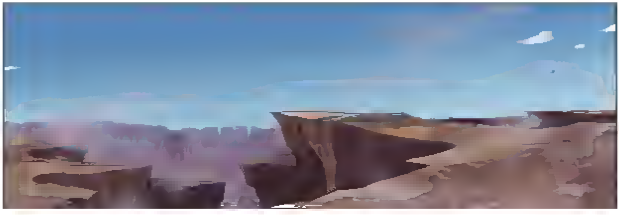

Although the Archdevil Mephisto is with us, our safety is no guaranteed.
We currently need to be fully prepared
Cooperation with the witches
Especially the unique potency of the witch's potion will be of great help to us.

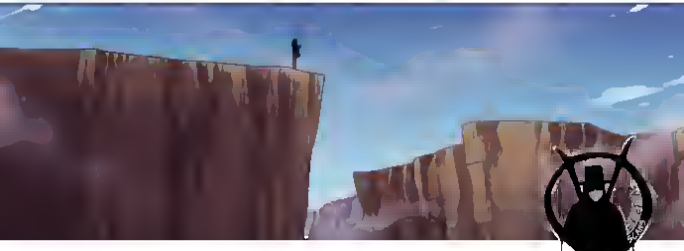
In order to continue our travels...
No, In order to survive. .
Receiving the witch's potion as support will be essential.

SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

64





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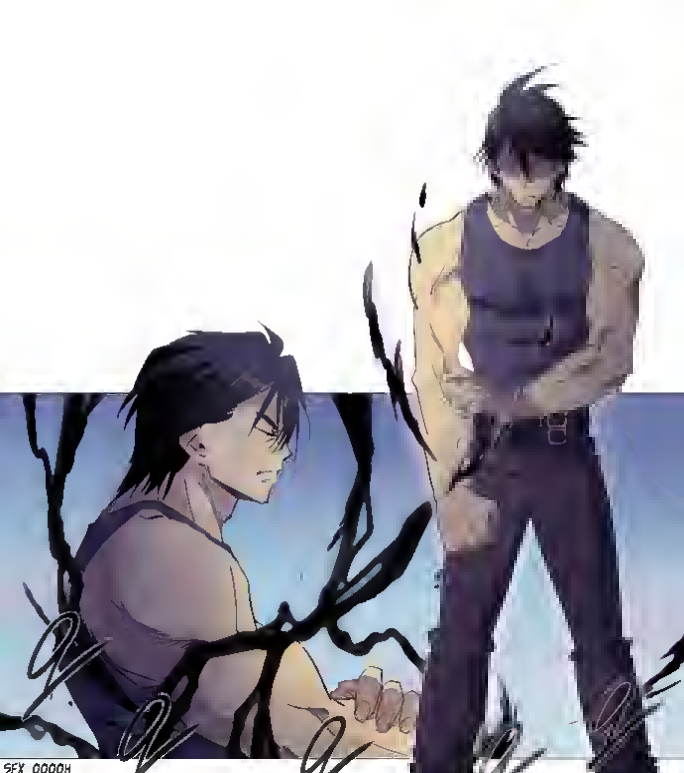

SFX OOOOH

SFX: KRMBLE

SFX: RUMMMBLE

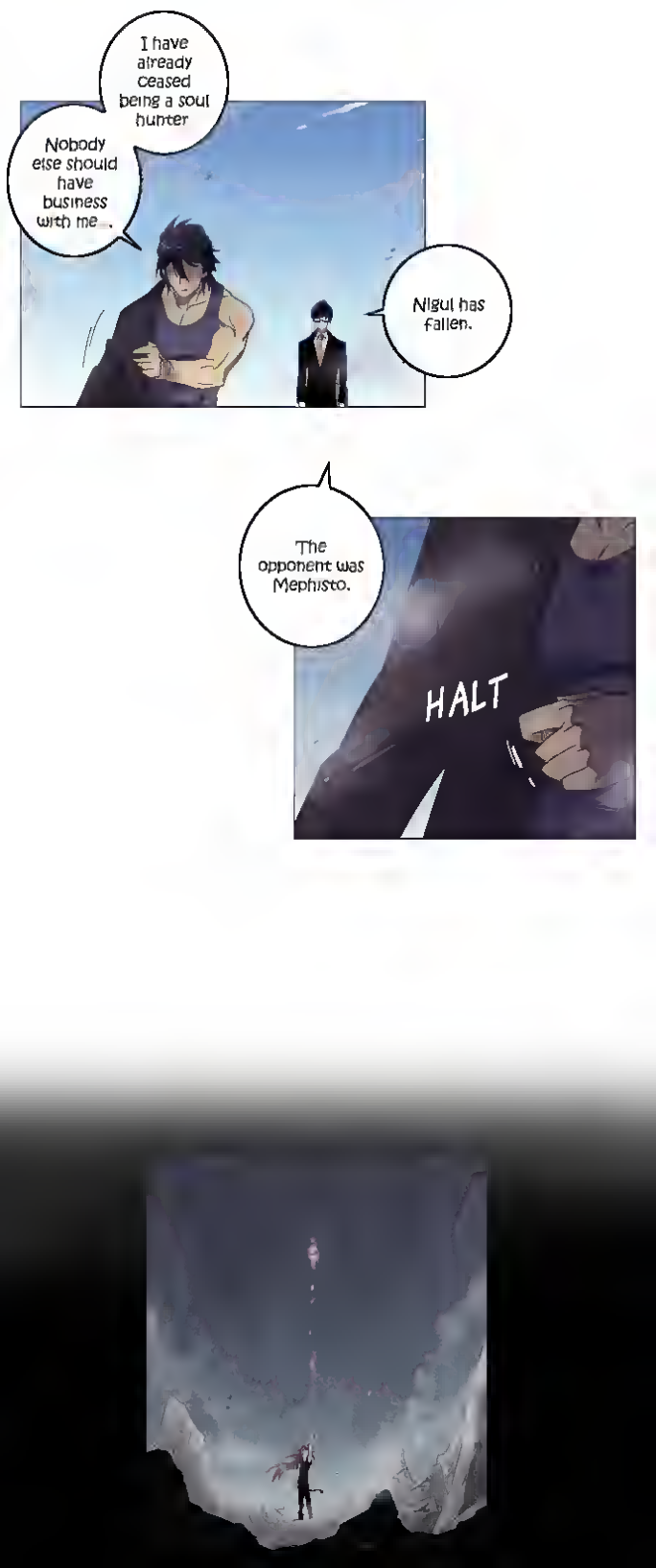
What a dreary aura.
SH
HH
Have you gotten used to your new right arm of yours?
PART OF NESK COMPANY. MILON.

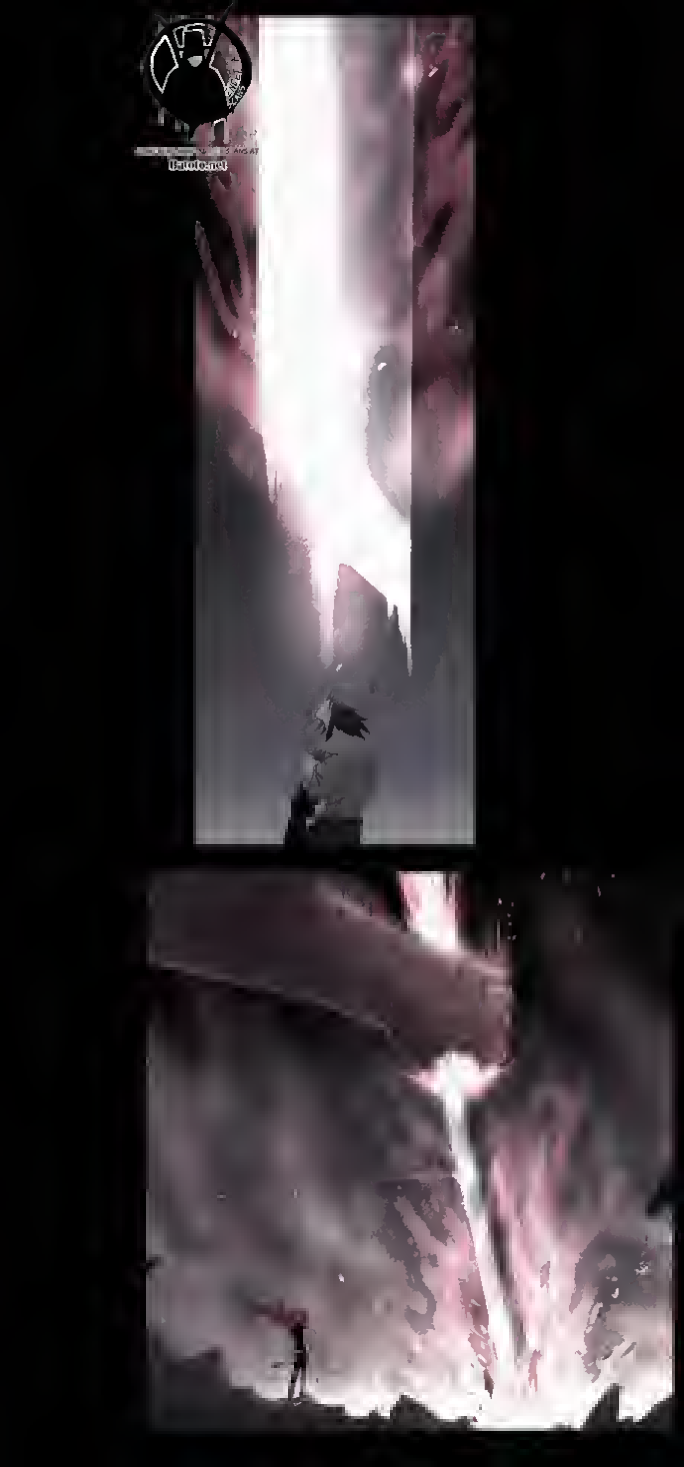
Ahh. It was you, Milon?
If you showed your form any later, I would have killed you by mistake.
Hahahaha. Do not worry, I will not die that easily.

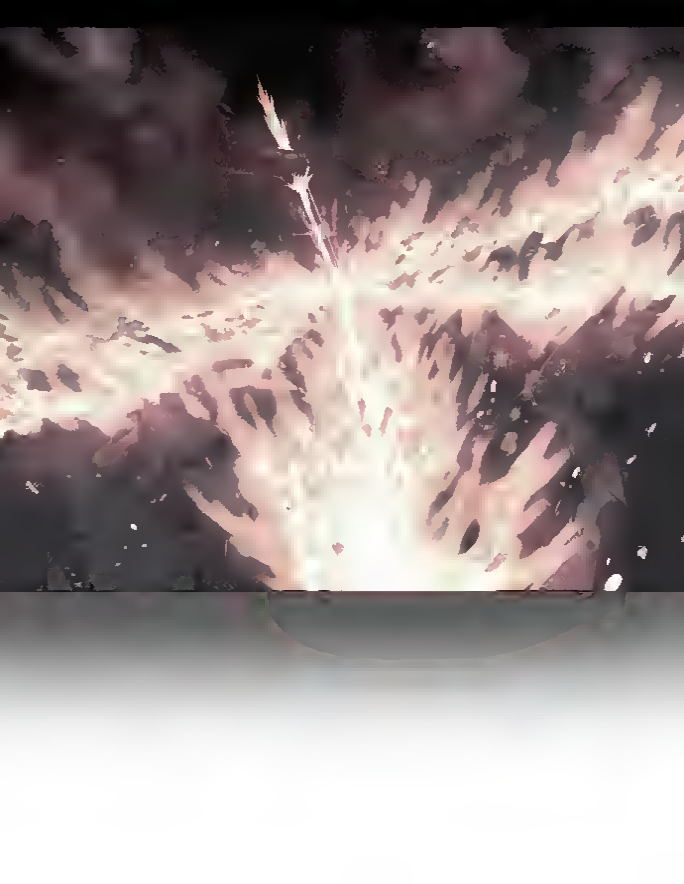
More importantly, Gilgath nim...
How do you like our specialized arm we made?
It ain't bad.
But in order to completely adapt to this body, it will take some time.

This is a good product.
I am thankful.
GILGATH
FORMER SOUL HUNTER

So...
What is a black market dealer... Doing in a dust filled place like this?
GRAB


I have already ceased being a soul hunter
Nobody else should have business with me...
Nigul has fallen.
The opponent was Mephisto.
HALT





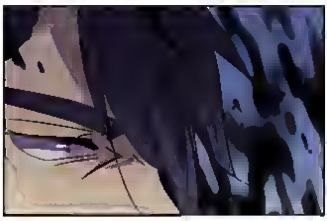
So something like that happened, huh?
You don't seem surprised.
He was your disciple at one point...
Although he had extraordinary talent, he was too rash. He became overconfident in his skills.
He wasn't at a level to take on an Archdevil.
If he had stayed under me for another 500 years... He could've been worthy of being my partner.
A pity.
So... I'm sure you haven't come here just to tell me that...
What is your real purpose?
...The representative Gairon-nim seeks you out for an important job.

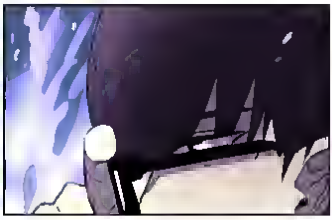
I haven't gotten used to this new arm yet.
Tell him I am not ready for battle.
I was ordered to bring you back no matter what reason you have.
Using any means possible, of course.

SFX BOOM

Don't joke around, greenhorn.
As long as I am prepared to throw away this right hand of mine, someone of your level is nothing.
SFX: CRAACKLE

SFX: OOOOOH





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1ST DEMON CITY
KOLN

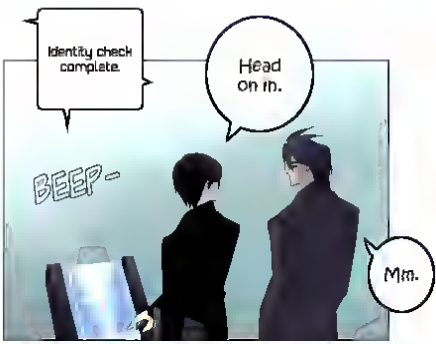
This one seems better

I think it matches my style.
Nice fit, too.
Owner, how much is that glove?
5 Lant.

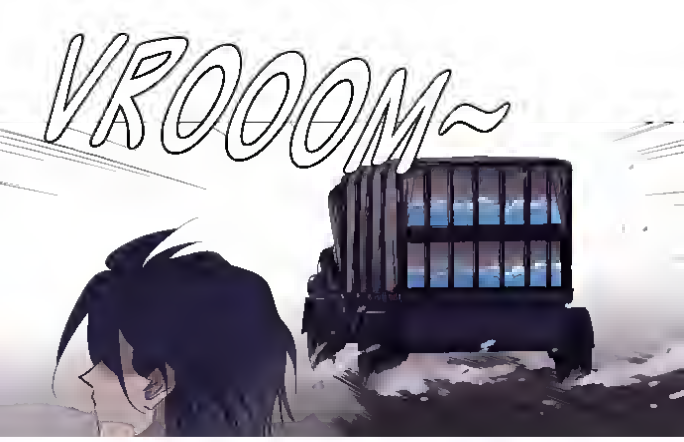
Did the prices go up? I thought 3 Lant would've been enough.
Just what age are you talking about...? That was the price 50 years ago
More importantly, why was I the one paying?
Did you think you'll bring me here for free?
Be thankful that I'm quietly following you.

Ah, that's why you were so calm
—I know of a good restaurant known for their soul food Would you like to head there?
Let's go after we finish our business
Since you're the one paying~

Nesk Company
Headquarters

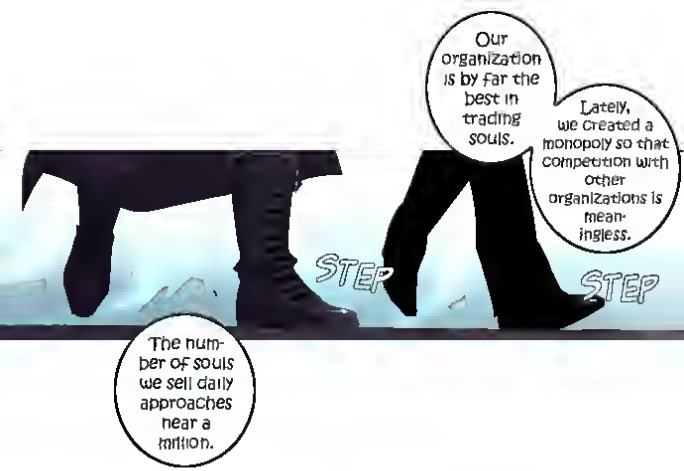

Identity check complete.
Head on in.
BEEP-
Mm.

VROOM~


VROOOM~

CLUNK
CLUNK

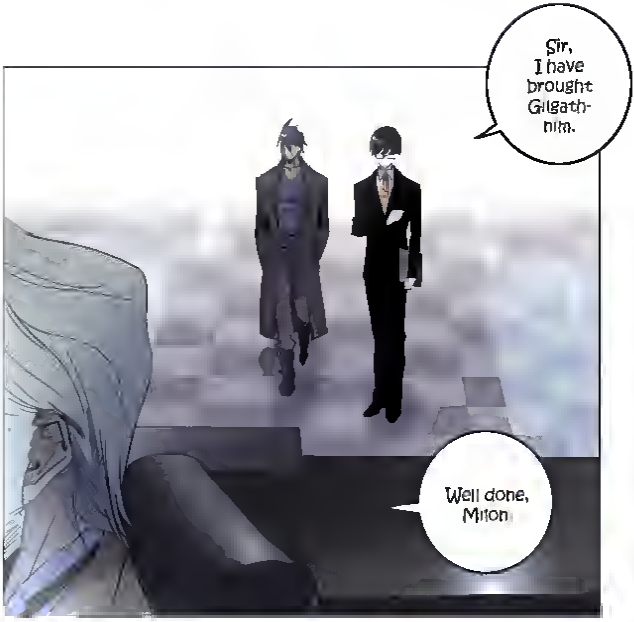
I see business is same as ever.
Are those souls being taken to the auction house?
Yes. We keep our special products in a separate area.

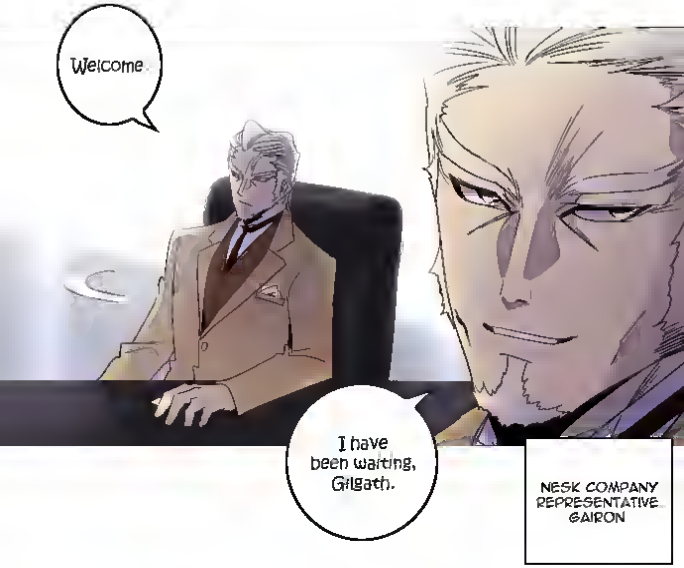

Our organization is by far the best in trading souls.
Lately, we created a monopoly so that competition with other organizations is meaningless.
STEP
STEP
The number of souls we sell daily approaches near a million.

It seems you have employed quite some skilled soul hunters. The merchandise looks good, too.
This doesn't even compare to when I left.
Was Nigul also employed here?
No.
Nigul moved independently. He merely traded with us time to time.

GRIN
Although he was insane his performance was good

COME AGAIN HIGH QUALITY MANGA
Baiotu net


Sir, I have brought Gilgathnim.
Well done, Mitori.

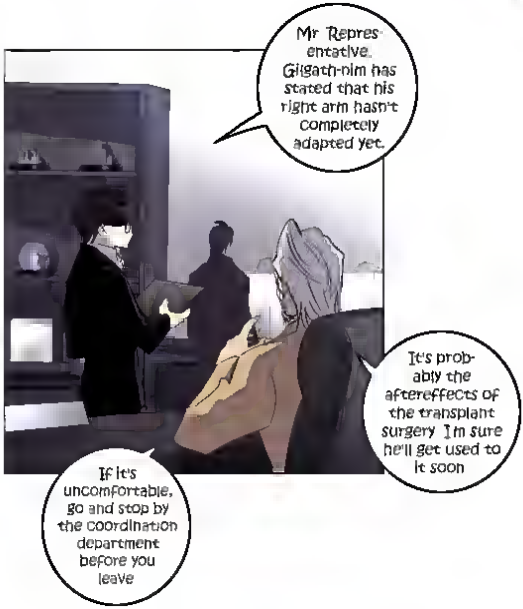

Welcome.
I have been waiting, Gilgath.
NESK COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE GAIRON

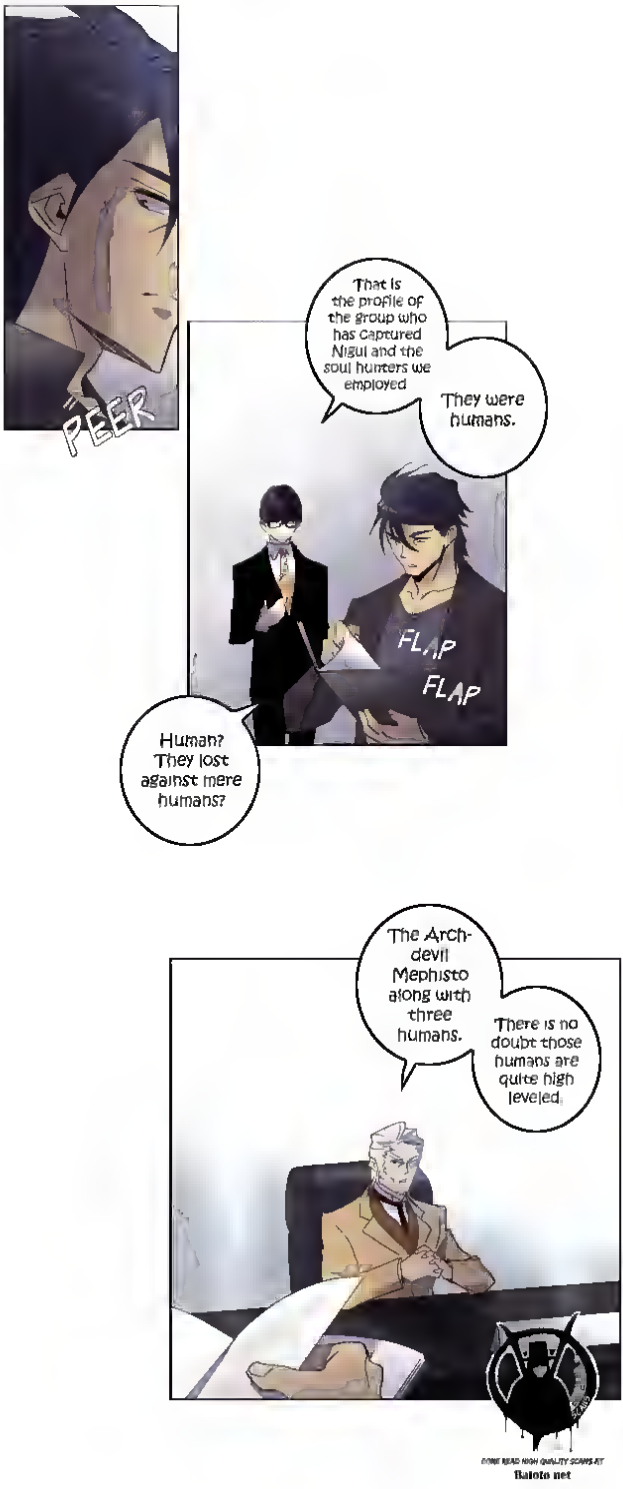
Hey~ Looks like business is booming.
Your office looks more luxurious now.

Looks like your bizarre collection is slowly growing
My collection there is worth at least 10 million Lant.
These toys are worth 10 million souls Sure is expensive.

I've heard you were looking for me.
Something came up and no matter how I look at it, you're the best for the job.
Really? My work is expensive so you hardly use me

That's how important this job is.
You heard about how Nigui was defeated, right?
I heard about it through your underling. Before then, I didn't know.
Mm. Well, it is information only few know of so far.


Mr. Representative Gigath-nim has stated that his right arm hasn't completely adapted yet.
It's probably the aftereffects of the transplant surgery. I'm sure he'll get used to it soon.
If it's uncomfortable, go and stop by the coordination department before you leave.


PEER
That is the profile of the group who has captured Nigul and the soul hunters we employed
They were humans.
FLAP
FLAP
Human? They lost against mere humans?
The Arch-devil Mephisto along with three humans.
There is no doubt those humans are quite high leveled.

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Milon, how much is the estimated value on those humans?
Incredibly high. To start with, the three humans are all young.
Also, since the recent incident proved their ability to fight, their value has skyrocketed. They are top level goods.

Especially Lucian Dire
He is a reincarnated human. It has been confirmed that he had been Faust in his past life.
What's special is the fact that he can use God's Papyrus.
Up until now, only Archangels were able to use God's items.
As a human who can use God's items, he is the very first since the dawn of the world.
To estimate the value of that body... There isn't a number high enough to estimate his worth.
Cha Shi-hoon and Cha Soo-in. Based on their young ages, they are worth 70 billion and 50 billion respectively.
If we leave out Lucian Dire...
It is an amount enough to rival the entire trade of souls within the market.

THE ENTIRE TRADE OF SOULS WITHIN THE MARKET?!

This is incredible.
There hasn't been a higher valued good within the Underworld until now

I want to lay my hands on those goods.
Within a young body ..

The problem is Mephisto-pheles.
Right. Although most corporations with a good intelligence network know of this information
None are able to take action.
Their opponent is the most combat oriented of the four Archdevils, Mephisto-pheles
That is the reason I need you.
You're the best man suited for fighting an Archdevil.

Hell's Pilgrimage

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SOUL CARTEL - CHAPTER 65

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Raw Link: http://comic.naver.com/webtoon/list.nhn?titleId=423384

SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

65

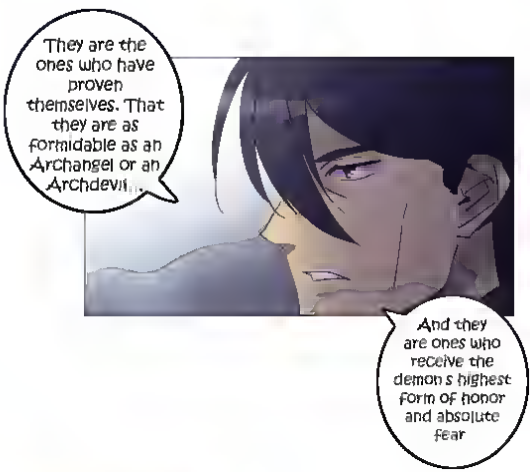
Milton, you are aware of this as well, correct?

Of course I am aware.
However.. Since I am against violence, I have no interest in that system.
Don't say that. You are insulting the demon's highest form of honor.

The four Arch-devils that challenge God. The four Archangels that receive God's words
They are the ones who are the very symbol of the Under-world.

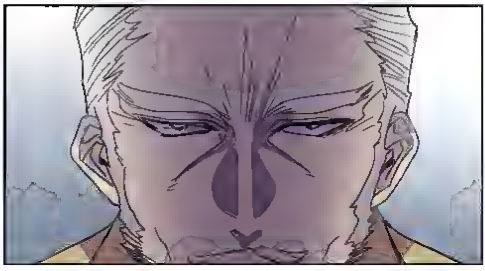
They not only inspire awe within the demons, but are also an existence synonymous to fear.
To fight each of them one and one
Is a practically impossible challenge
THIS IS THE 'HELL'S' PILIGRIMAGE'

To take this challenge and survive is the highest form of honor for a demon.
In order to claim that honor, there are countless demons who have lost their lives trying.
However... There are those who survived despite the despairingly low probability.
They are ones who have overcome the impossible.

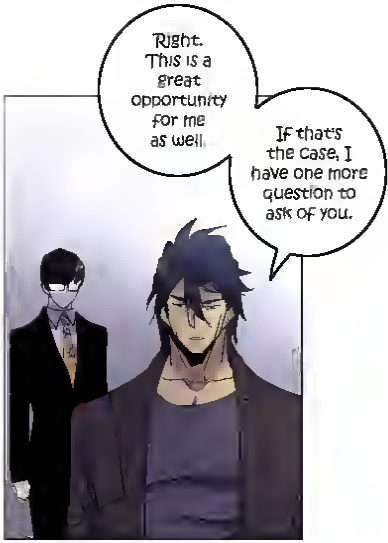

They are the ones who have proven themselves. That they are as formidable as an Archangel or an Archdevil...
And they are ones who receive the demon's highest form of honor and absolute fear.

One by one this type of existences began to increase...
And at some point, every being began to call them by a certain name.

A RULER THAT
THE DEMON'S
ACKNOWLEDGE.



In order to form a bond of solidarity amongst each other...
The Pluto have formed a contract that is thicker than blood.
This is so that they would never betray one another.
I'm sure you're already aware, but I am also in the middle of Hell's Pilgrimage.
I have fought other Archdevils and all the Archangels and have come out alive.
The only one left is the Archdevil Mephisto-pheles
...Which is why you're the most suited for this task.



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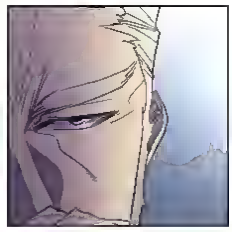
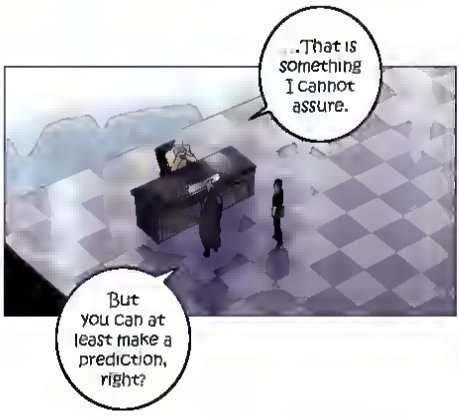
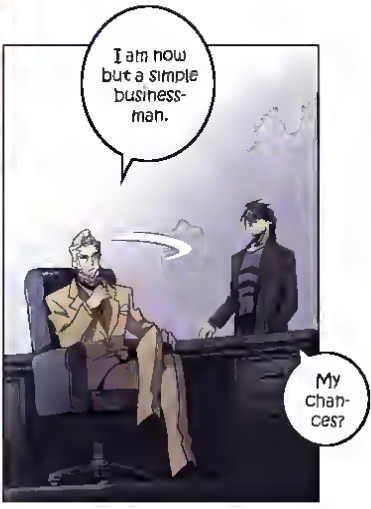


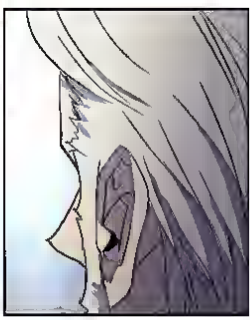

...That is something I cannot assure.
But you can at least make a prediction, right?

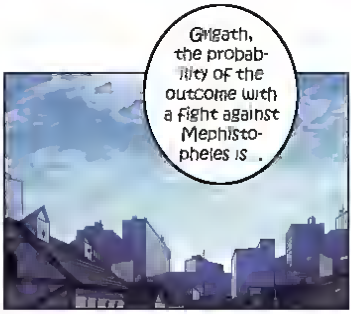
The first in history to fight all the Archdevils and Archangels alone...
And the one who founded the Hell's Pilgrimage...
TAP
The one who first completed that trial.

The very first Pluto.
That's you, Galron.

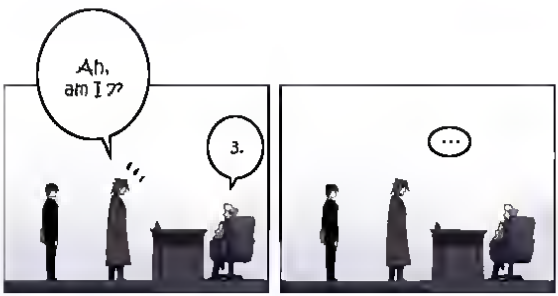
That's an incredibly old story you're talking about
RAISE


I am now but a simple business-man.
My chances?




Gilgath, the probability of the outcome with a fight against Mephistopheles is .

7 TO 3.


Ah, am I ?
3.
...

Damn.
Gilgath, the 3 includes factoring in your right arm, which you are still not accustomed to.
If you can completely use that right arm to the full potential...
The probabilities change.

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Baioto net

...5 to 5

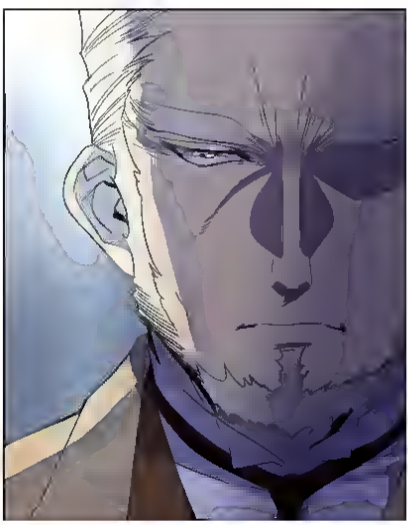
I see.
GRIN
That arm is an arm we made essentially for combat. Our best product. It's compatibility with you is extraordinarily high
It is more than enough to face an Archdevil with.

Although I cannot guess the victor, you should be enough to take on Mephisto-pheles.
There's still some time so go and reinforce that arm in the maintenance department.
I shall guide him there.

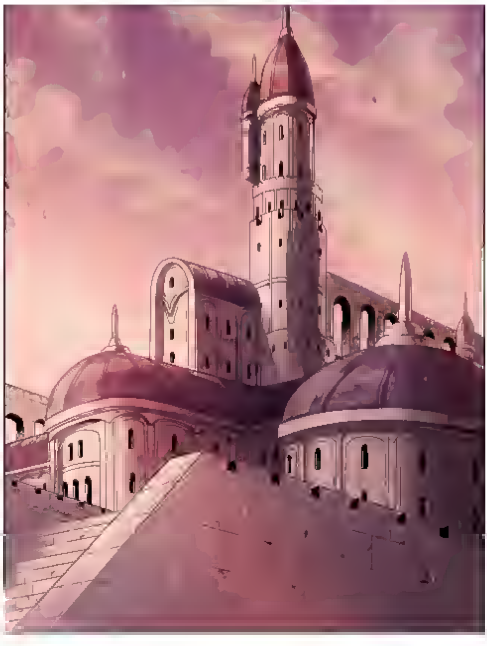
Your initial payment will be 25%.
The rest will be given after the job is done.
CLOP
CLOP
Do what you will.

Since this time, money isn't at stake.

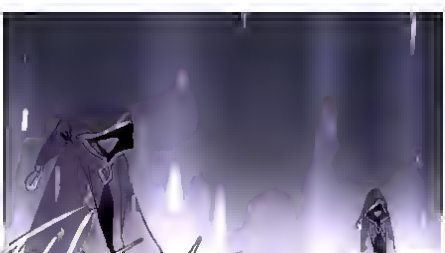
CLICK



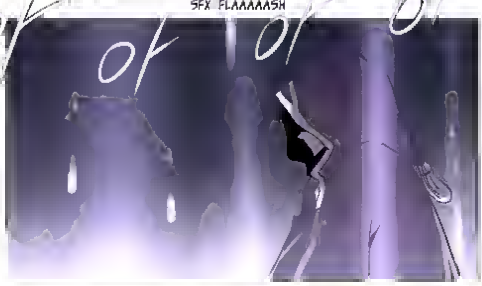
WITCH'S
CASTLE,
ALINEAN



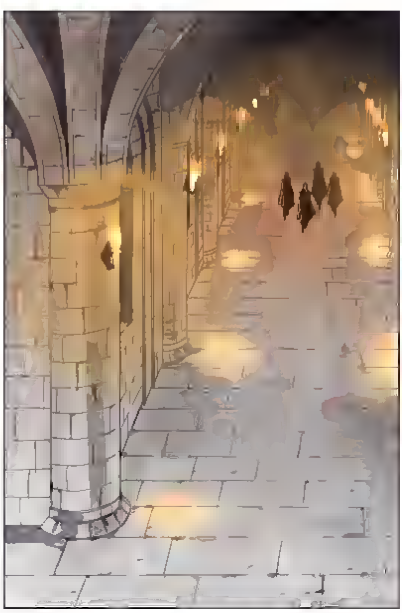
PANT
PANT
PANT



SFX FLAAAAASH



SFX: SHIIIINE



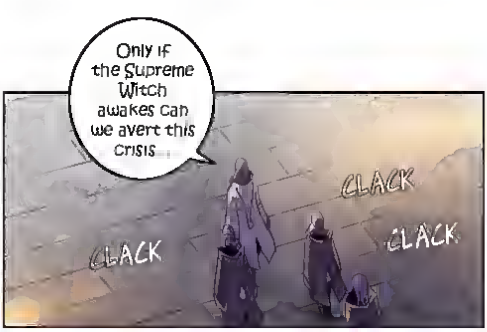
Chairman Shiole-nim, this is our fifth attempt and there are still no results.
What should we do at this point...
Both medicine and magic all have no effect.

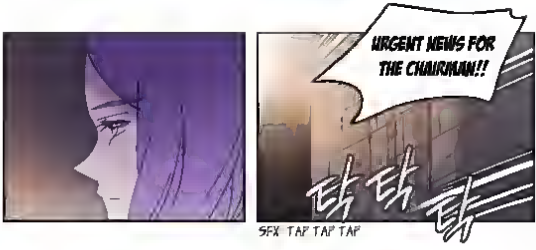
Those five witches who passed away... The Supreme Witch is showing the same symptoms
At this rate, even the Supreme Witch will...
At her current state, it will be difficult to even last a single week.
CHAIRMAN OF THE WITCH'S COUNCIL, UPPER-CLASS WITCH SHIOLE.

We must...
Find a cure no matter what.
COUGH
COUGH

Chairman, are you alright?
You haven't slept in three days...
Your body was already weak to begin with. You should rest, even if a little...
I am fine...
The condition of the Supreme Witch is of more importance...

If the Supreme Witch passes away... Then a great disaster may occur.
Not only our coalition with the Archangels, but our current diplomatic relations with the other clans may crumble. There is a high probability of a massive crisis occurring.
It is possible that it may shake the very foundations of the Underworld.

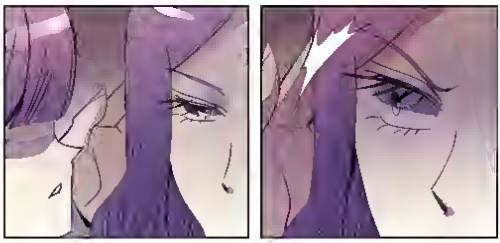

Only if the Supreme Witch awakes can we avert this crisis...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK



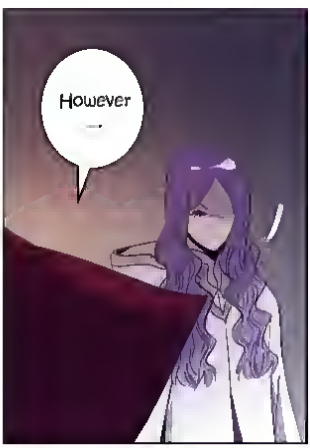
SFX: TAP TAP TAP

SFX: TAP TAP TAP

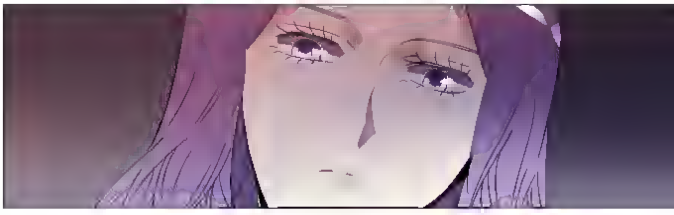
The upper-class witch Violine and the lower-class witch Airen...
What brings you two here?
I shall tell you right away. This is news that Airen had brought.



MEPHISTOPHELES?!
It is confirmed that he is heading this way.
Although we cannot be sure if he intends on treating the Supreme Witch


However
—

The one who won against Mephisto-nim, Faust-nim...
He will definitely help us out
He'll definitely be able to persuade Mephisto-nim.



Fight poison with poison.
So in the end . This method we wanted to avoid most Is all that's left.

If we are not able to persuade the Archdevil, our entire existence will be in danger.
We must solidly set our resolve.

Send word to everyone.
The Archdevil Mephistopheles will come soon.
SFX: WHOOSH
THE END

Tell them to all be highly vigilant.

SOUL CARTEL
소울 카르텔
To be continued

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SOUL CARTEL - CHAPTER 66

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SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

66

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SHE DARES TO STEAL OUR PERMITS THEN LEAVE?!
THAT PISSES ME OFF! THAT PISSES ME OFF, BIG TIME!! SHE DEFINITELY WON'T GET OFF EASY!!
SFX CRACKLE

GAAAAAH!!
Is it really alright to leave him alone?
HUFF HUFF
I'm sure it's fine Although I gave Airen the plan beforehand...
The clan of witches are known for being very wise. I'm sure they already have countermeasures for an Archdevil or two

More importantly, we need to be cautious within this forest.
?!

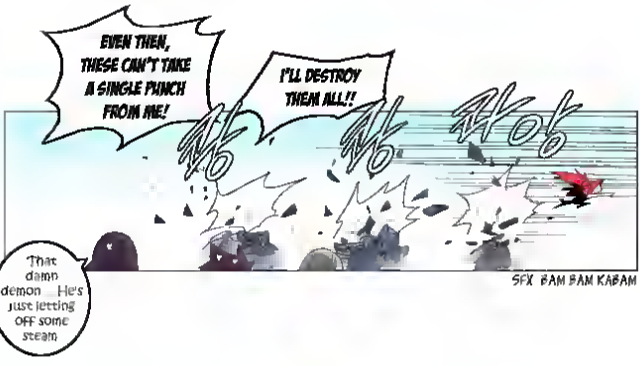
This is the forest that surrounds the Witch's Alnean Castle.
Since this forest is full of various items the witches created, this place is also called the 'Witch's Garden'
Seriously~ This place is packed with peculiar things.
The witches are a clan that have a voracious desire to learn.
In order to appease that desire, they are always studying for the sake of their research.
Oh my. Unlike a certain someone, they are always studying.

Potions such as the potion of youth, in particular, are unique to the clan of witches.
On top of that, they also create anything from surreal items to mysterious buildings.
Since this forest is the same as their front yard, this place is full of failed experiments or test subjects.

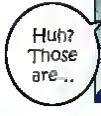
Amongst them, there are also magical weaponry.
It's best not to touch anything you see here.
...I see.

Hmph!
RAISE

Is that so?
SFX SMASH


EVEN THEN, THESE CAN'T TAKE A SINGLE PUNCH FROM ME!
I'LL DESTROY THEM ALL!!
SFX BAM BAM KABAM

That damn demon... He's just letting off some steam


Huh? Those are...

WHOOOSH

WITCHES!!
SFX: WHOOOOSH

Greetings, Mephisto-pheles-nim.
TAP

I am a member of the council of witches, the upper class witch Violine.

Look, I have no business with you.
SFX: SWISH SWISH
Bring the brat who stole our stuff.
Or are you planning on challenging me?

If that is how you feel... I have no intention on stopping you.
Oho?!
After hanging around the angels for so long...
I guess the witches have gained a little confidence in their skill?
Ridic ulous.
There is not one being here who doesn't know of an Archdevil's strength.
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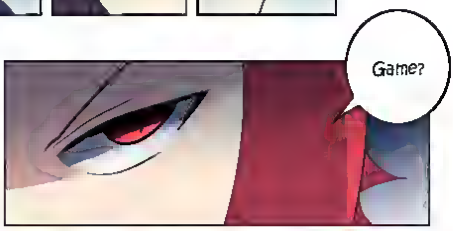
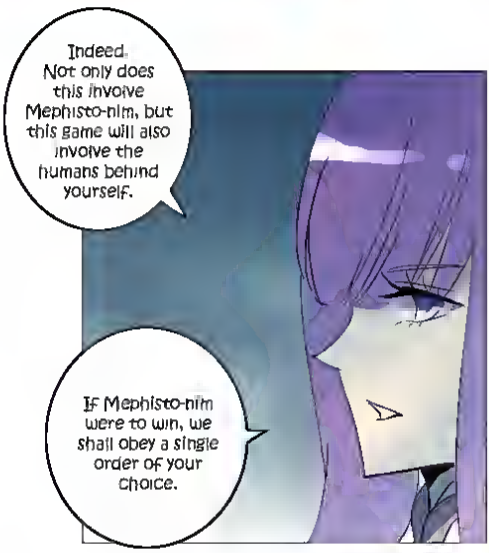
More importantly Mephisto-nim, it seems you have burned the invitation we have sent...
Hmph, even if I had the invitation, I go where I please.

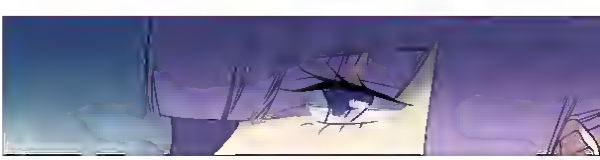
Mephisto, are you really planning on fighting her?
I accept all challenges thrown at me!

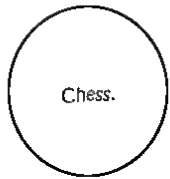
...Understood, Mephistopheles-nim
However... How could I possibly face a Archdevil in strength?
If possible... Can we settle this through a game?


Game?


Indeed. Not only does this involve Mephisto-nim, but this game will also involve the humans behind yourself.
If Mephisto-nim were to win, we shall obey a single order of your choice.

Oho. So if I win, you have to follow an order of my choice...
So... What's the game?




Chess.

SFX DA DUM
This is the Chess board.
Pretty big huh?
This is the largest Chess board within the Underworld. It would be best to aptly call it a Chess stadium instead.

WOW~

It's huge~!
We're gonna play chess here?
GLANCE
GLANCE
Yes. However, since this chess board is this size, we will have appropriate pieces to fit the board

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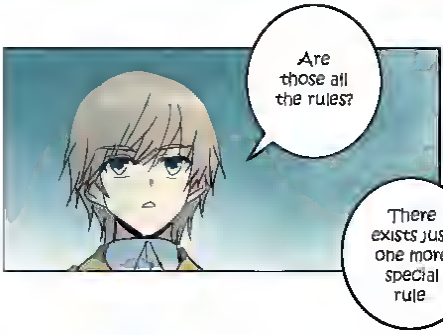
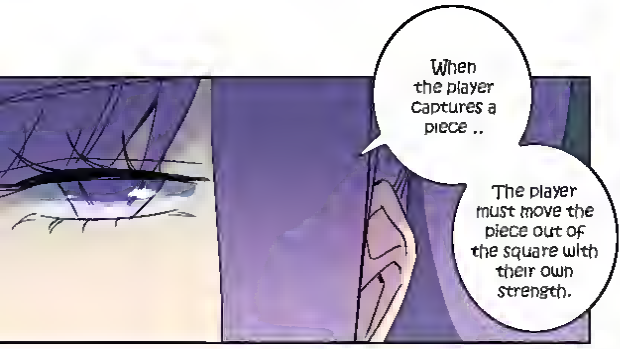
So we are literally the pieces?
Normally, a team consists of 16 players along with one who coordinates them...
But since there are four of you, we will shrink the scale of this game.

Designate one person to move the pieces...
And apart from the king... Have the other three players choose their pieces within the other 15 pieces available.

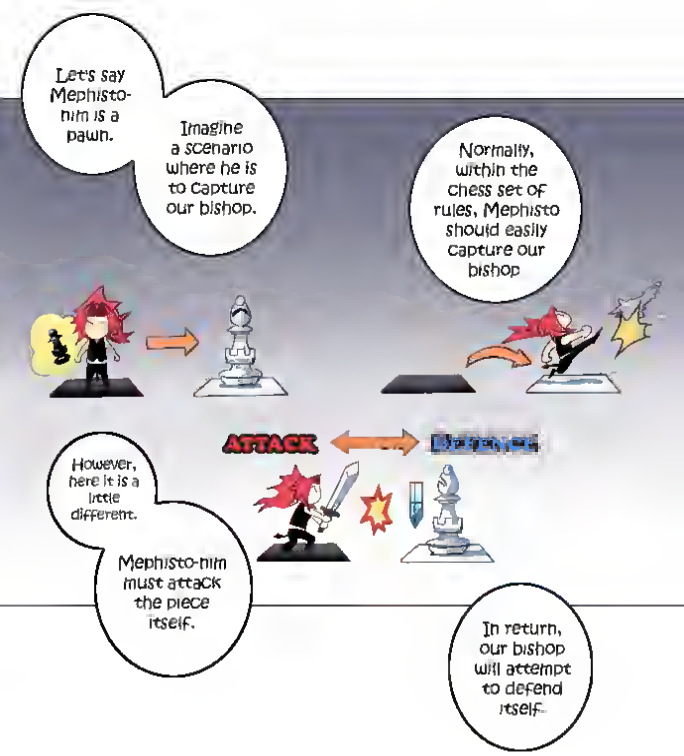
What pieces you decide is entirely up to you.
Our side will also choose four participants to play.

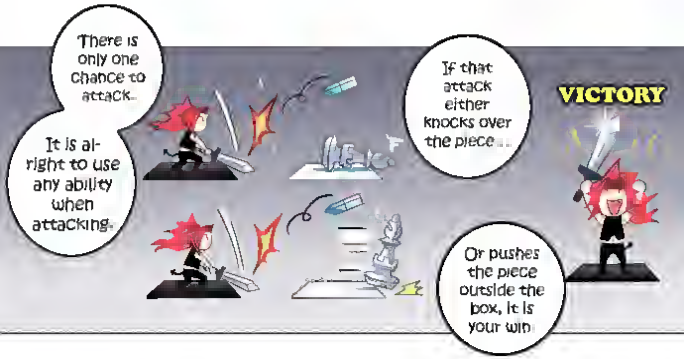

Are those all the rules?
There exists just one more special rule


When the player captures a piece ..
The player must move the piece out of the square with their own strength.

?

Allow me to explain


Let's say Mephisto-nim is a pawn.
Imagine a scenario where he is to capture our bishop.
Normally, within the chess set of rules, Mephisto should easily capture our bishop
ATTACK
DEFENCE
However, here it is a little different.
Mephisto-nim must attack the piece itself.
In return, our bishop will attempt to defend itself...


There is only one chance to attack...
It is al-right to use any ability when attacking.
If that attack either knocks over the piece...
VICTORY
Or pushes the piece outside the box, it is your win

Conversely..
If the piece is not knocked over or pushed outside the box...

The attack will be labeled as a failure..
And Mephisto-him will be eliminated from this match.
LOSE

Then, allow me to also explain about the pieces that will be substituted as the players.
In a case where a chess piece faces off against another chess piece... The normal rules of Chess apply and the attacking side wins.
However, in a case where a chess piece faces another player... The built-in attack function of the chess piece will activate.

If you underestimate a chess piece because it is not a player...
You could be seriously injured.

W Well then, I'll go and cheer...

If I attacked the opponent and can't get them out...
I'm the one who gets eliminated...
Exactly. That's why this game is called...

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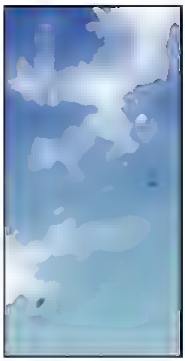
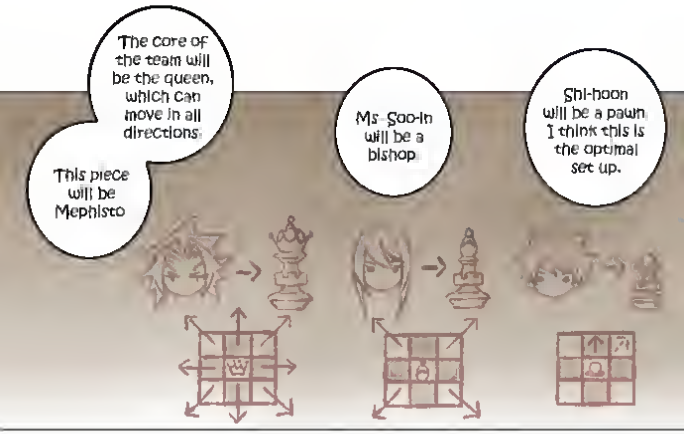


For now, let's decide the one in charge of moving the pieces.

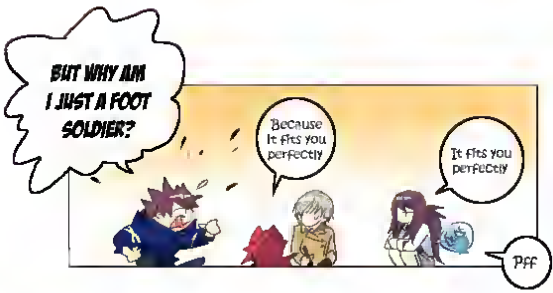
I hear that our opponent is considered gifted even amongst the witches...
But, we have Faust. You have no problem with chess, right?
Yes

A long time ago, I had the pleasure of going against the world chess champion.
It was an easy victory.
...Faust, have you ever lost in games like chess or checkers before?
...No.
I'm starting to get a little scared of Faust...

...For now, we should decide what to do.
SCRICH
SCRICH
Since they just said that a player cannot be king, if we take out the king...


The core of the team will be the queen, which can move in all directions.
This piece will be Mephisto
Ms. Soo-in will be a bishop
Shi-hoon will be a pawn. I think this is the optimal set up.

Protecting the king takes the most priority.
Even with Mephisto on our side, if our king gets captured, everything is over.


BUT WHY AM I JUST A FOOT SOLDIER?
Because it fits you perfectly
It fits you perfectly
Pff

Shi hoon, it's not like that.
????
You'll be the key to victory in the end.

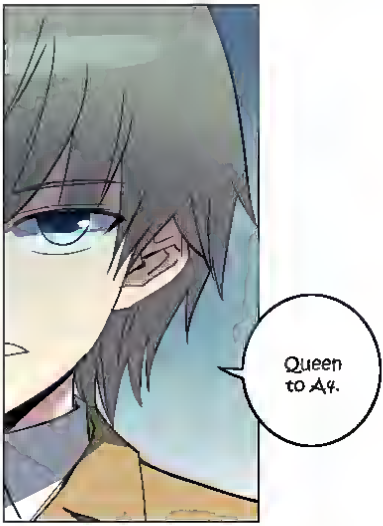
<BLACK>
FAUST

MEPHISTO: QUEEN
CHA SOO-IN: BISHOP
CHA SHI-HOON: PAWN

<WHITE>
VIOLINE

ELENA: QUEEN
SELESTRA: KNIGHT
LEANNE: ROOK

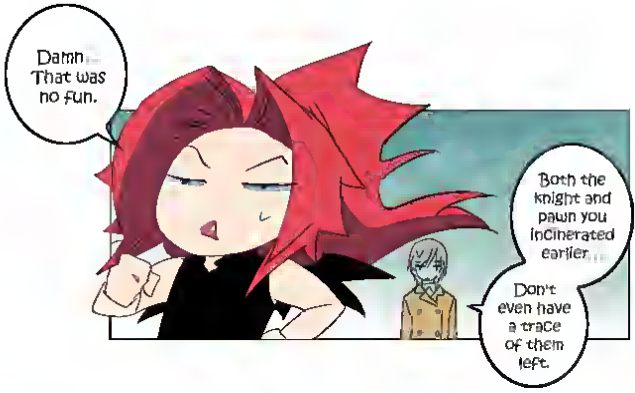
MATCH START!!


Queen to A4.

Alright, now it's my turn to attack.
SFX: VOOM VOOM
My opponent is a rook, right?
See if you can take my attack.
Don't worry. If you can last one hit, I'm the one who's gonna lose~
EEEEK~

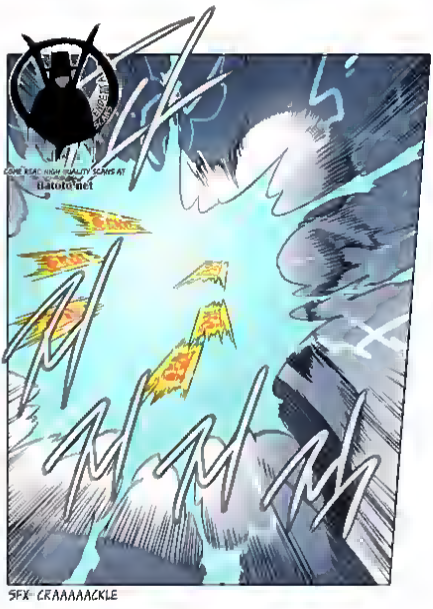
HERE I GO!!
SFX: WOOSH

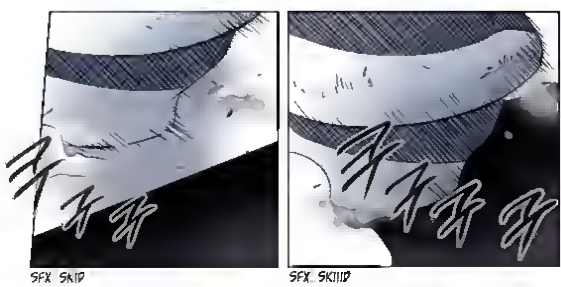
I-I FORFEIT~!!
SWOOSH-
SKID

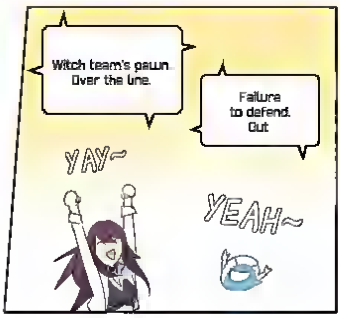

Damn... That was no fun.
Both the knight and pawn you incinerated earlier...
Don't even have a trace of them left.

LIGHTNING TALISMAN
SFX SWIIISH

SIX-FOLD
STRIKE
SFX: FWOOSH


SFX: CRAAAAACKLE


SFX: SKID
SFX: SKIIID


Witch team's pawn
Over the line.
Failure
to defend.
Out
YAY~
YEAH~

SFX. GRIP
Finally,
it's my
turn.

SFX. KABOOM
THE 3RD HAND
AHOK

SFX BOOM
Witch Team's Knight is down.
Failure to defend. Out.
ALRIGHT!! I DID IT!!

THERE ARE ONLY FOUR THINGS TO CONSIDER.

FIRST, I MUST UTILIZE MEPHISTO, WHOSE POSITION IS A QUEEN.
I MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS ABSOLUTE STRENGTH IN BOTH ATTACK AND DEFENSE.
SECOND, I MUST NOT PLACE MS. SOO-IN AND SHI-HOON IN A SITUATION WHERE THEY ARE ATTACKED.
THIRD, AFTER SHI-HOON HAS ATTACKED, SINCE HE CANNOT ATTACK FOR ANOTHER THREE MINUTES...
I MUST MOVE OTHER PIECES SO THAT THEY PROTECT SHI-HOON.

AND FOURTH...
I MUST MAINTAIN THE OTHER THREE CONDITIONS WHILE SLOWLY WHITTLING AWAY THE ENEMY NUMBERS.

Step

AWW~ YEAH!!
I REACHED THE END OF THE CHESS BOARD!!

According to chess rules...
If a pawn reaches the end of the board, it can be turned into any of the pieces under the king, right?
So, what are you going to be?

Obviously. .

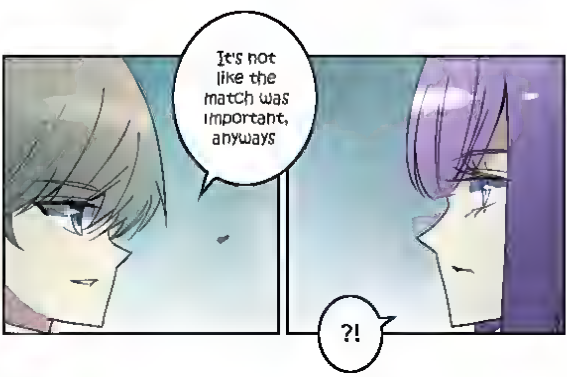
A QUEEN LIKE MEPHISTO!!
SFX: DA DUM

GAHAHAHA~!! I'M ALSO A QUEEN NOW~!!
A low-quality queen, compared to me.
But the match is already almost over .

...

Well done.

As expected of Faust-nim. You have exceptional skill.
I had confidence in my ability for chess, but it seems it was misplaced.
Not at all. It was a good match.


It's not like the match was important, anyways
?!

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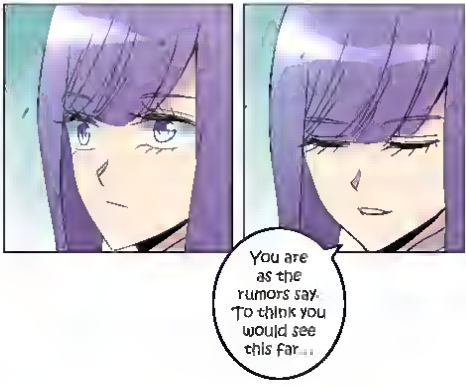

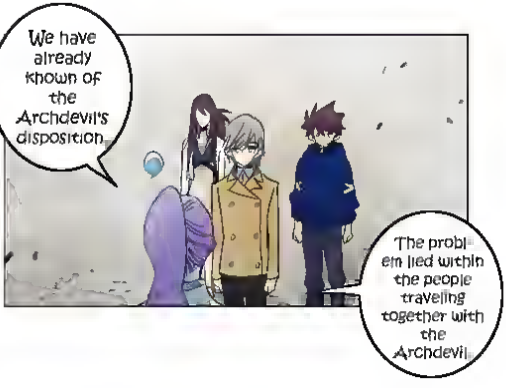
We have already known of the Archdevil's disposition.
The problem lied within the people traveling together with the Archdevil.

We needed to know their personalities in order to see their true intent.
Although we have heard rumors about Faust-him, we had never met in person.
Since there was the possibility that you could be using Airen with ill intent...
We had no choice but to be cautious.
However... When we observed your group while you all were immersed in the chess game, we had realized.
We realized you all hold no ill intent.
Allow me to apologize for proposing this game.

Now, enough with all this talk.

In the end, we won.

I hope you're prepared.

SOUL CARTEL
소울 카르텔
To be continued

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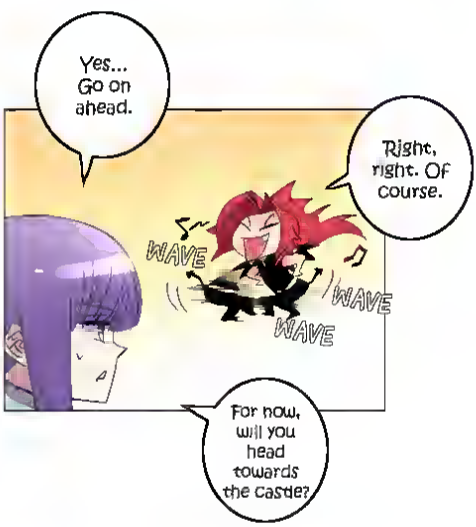
Since we won the game...
You have to obey one of my orders.
I hope you're prepared.


Yes... Go on ahead.
Right, right. Of course.
WAVE
WAVE
WAVE
For now, will you head towards the castle?

Yes, first I want you to guide me to the castle.
Then...
BOW
Understood.

I will follow Mephisto-nim's order.

Huh? Wait, wait
I haven't finished talking yet!!
You just gave me an order, did you not?
To 'guide you to the castle'...

No, no!!! Not that!!

After you guide me to the castle...
Meph-isto.

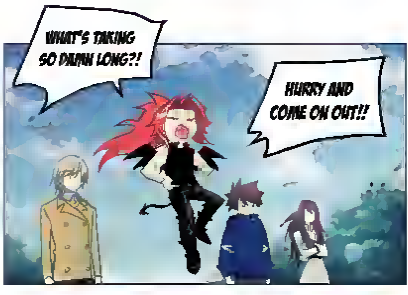
Guiding you to the castle...
Counts as one order.
Didn't she clearly state it before the match? Only a single order is to be given.
That's right.
It's just as he said.
But in return, I shall guide you through a shortcut only us witches know.

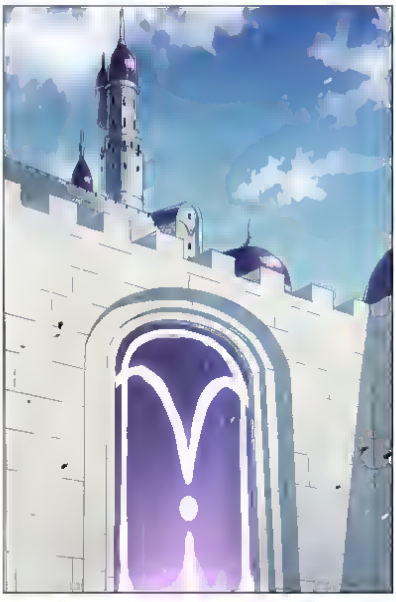
SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

67

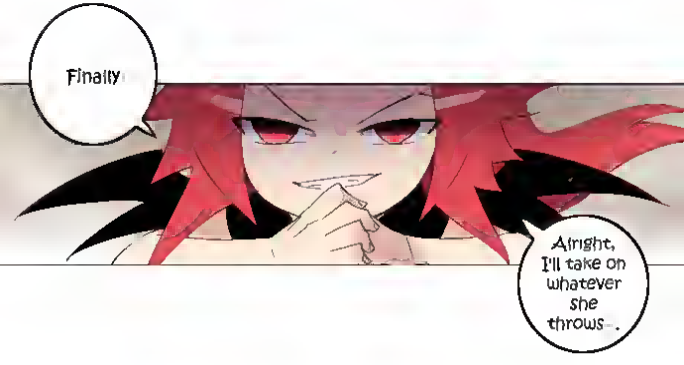
NOW THEN, I FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE CASTLE!!
COME ON OUT!!
YOU BRATTY WITCH!!!
SFX WHOOSH

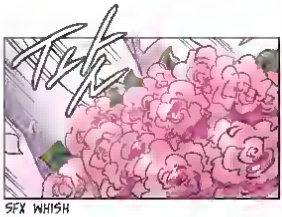

WHAT'S TAKING SO DAMN LONG?!
HURRY AND COME ON OUT!!

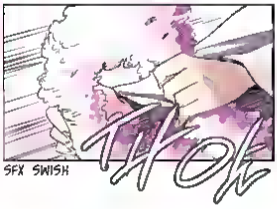


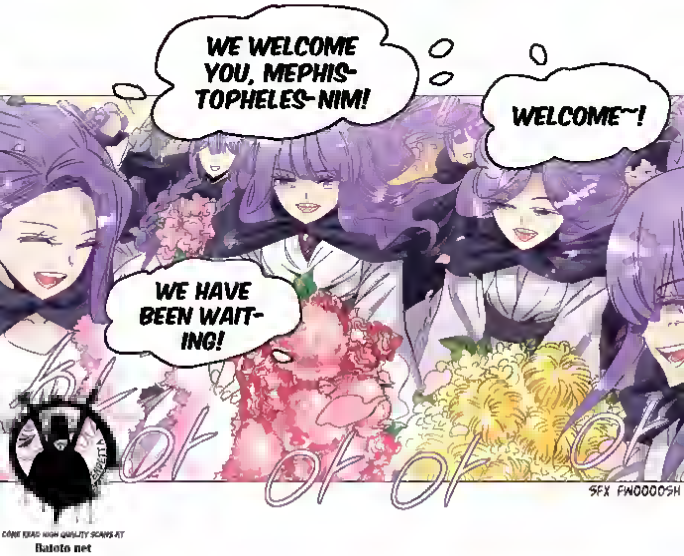
GL OW

SHHHHHH


Finally
Alright, I'll take on whatever she throws—.







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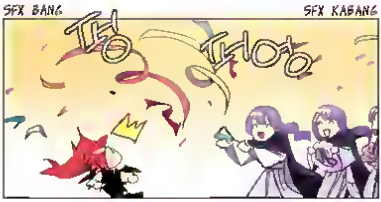
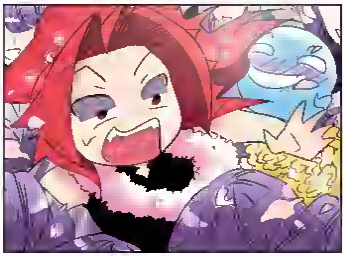
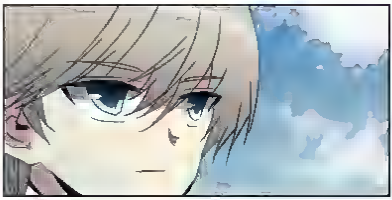


SFX WAAAAAAH
Wh-What on earth is that?!
PRETTY NOONIMS~!!
This is a much grander welcome than expected!!



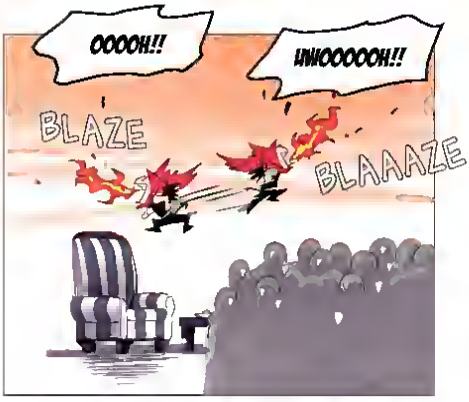


Alright alright.

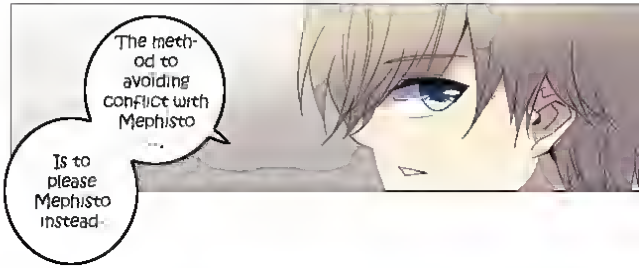
SFX: WAVE WAVE WAVE

Don't just stand there and join me!
I'm fine.
I'm also fine.
Mephisto-nim, we have brought ddeokbokki along with some of the witch's special spicy sauce
Oh, really?

KUAAAAAH~
SO SPICY~!!
FWOOSH


OOOOH!!
UWOOOOOH!!
BLAZE
BLAAAZE

What the heck is he doing?
We got back our permits from Ajren already. .
It seems he forgot all about me...

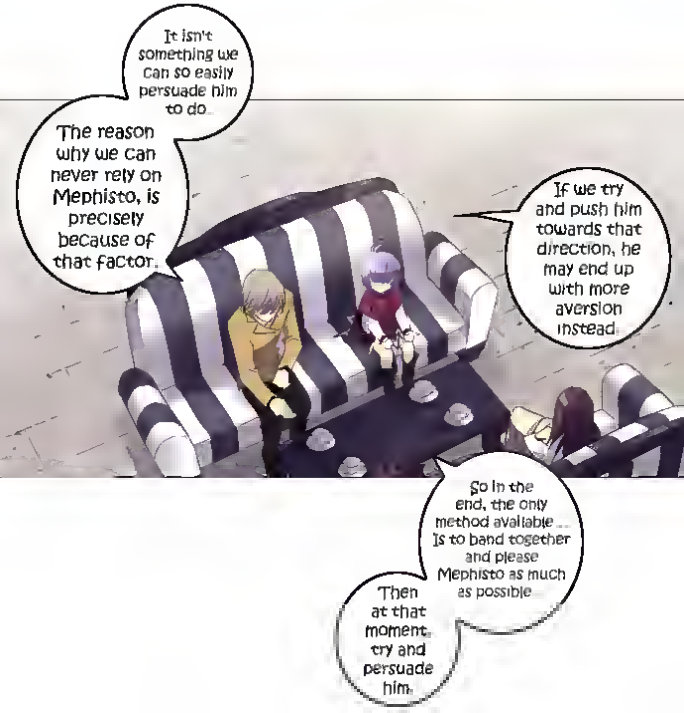

The method to avoiding conflict with Mephisto ...
Is to please Mephisto instead.

In order to do so. . Either throw him a party large enough so that he will be content...
Or, give him what he wants and play along with him. Those two are the only options.
Especially since he is a devil that hates boredom above

Faust-him, I know we managed to bring Mephisto without any trouble...
But is there a way to persuade him to help cure the Supreme Witch's illness?

. .That is an entirely different matter.
CLACK

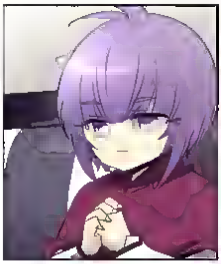
Because if Mephisto cures the Supreme Witch, it would be the same as an Archdevil helping another individual


It isn't something we can so easily persuade him to do.
The reason why we can never rely on Mephisto, is precisely because of that factor.
If we try and push him towards that direction, he may end up with more aversion instead.
So in the end, the only method available ... Is to band together and please Mephisto as much as possible.
Then at that moment, try and persuade him.

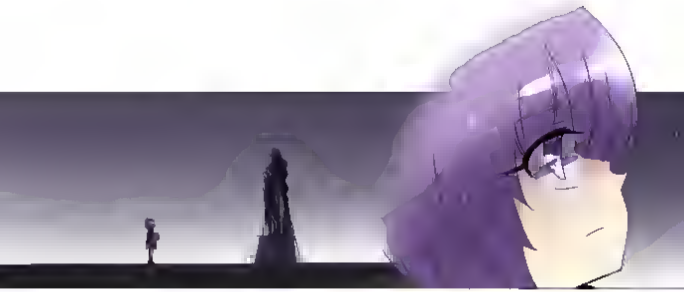
But persuading him during his state of delight...
To be honest, is the same as treading on thin ice.

Helping others... Is something unthinkable for another Archdevil...
In order to save the Supreme Witch... We have no choice but to answer to his every whim.
Batoto.net

Of course, everything seems to be proceeding smoothly, but...
Whether or not the Supreme Witch will last until we persuade him...
Is something I cannot guarantee.
The largest problem... Is time.



SQUEEZE



Airen.
STEP
STEP
STEP

Faust-
him.
So you were here.
You weren't coming for some time, so I came to look.

What about Mephisto-nim?
For now, we managed to persuade him to stay at the castle.
Everyone tried their best, so the results are showing.
More importantly, about the books I asked you to bring...
Ah, here you go
Thank you.

Airen, you've been staring at that statue for some time...
Ah, yes...

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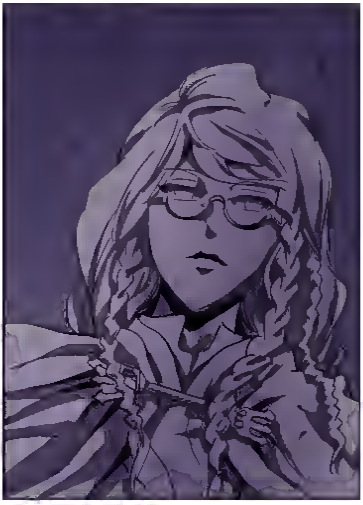
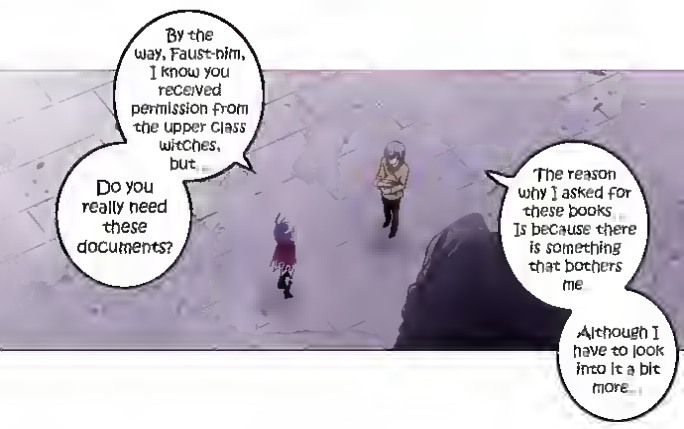
Baioto net



The statue of the witch Inea...
This statue was put up 300 years ago. . Back then, I had not reincarnated and was still living among the angels.

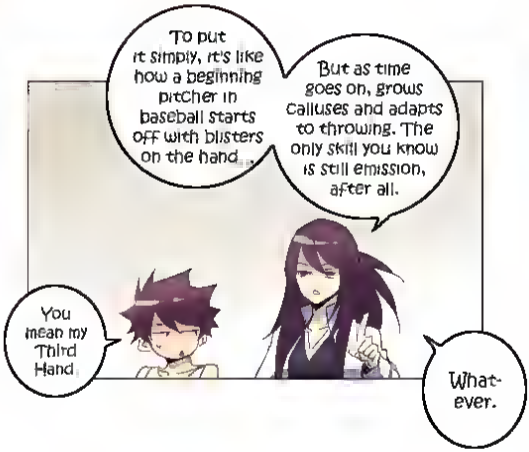

By the way, Faust-nim, I know you received permission from the upper class witches, but...
Do you really need these documents?
The reason why I asked for these books... Is because there is something that bothers me...
Although I have to look into it a bit more...

It is possible that our problem...
May become much more complicated than originally planned.

...

Is it almost done yet?

I wonder if my skills grew?
Rather than growing, it's probably more closer to adapting. Since you're still a beginner and all.


To put it simply, it's like how a beginning pitcher in baseball starts off with blisters on the hand...
But as time goes on, grows calluses and adapts to throwing. The only skill you know is still emission, after all.
You mean my Third Hand.
What-ever.

It's the same with your body's inability to move for three minutes after you use your emission.
If you just laze around the house then suddenly do some heavy exercise, you'll definitely be sore

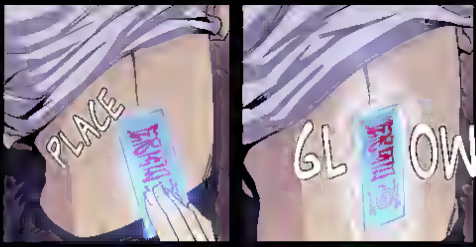
There is no way to get used to it other than through repetition.
Until your entire body can adapt

What I'm placing on you now is the Training Talisman
SWISH

Before you enter the Underworld ...
I'm goin to stick this on you.

The Guardian Talisman placed on you when you were still an infant was only for protec
This Training Talisman is a seal made in order to further a spirit medium's skills.

It lessens the strain of training and also makes your training much more efficient
When I was still young, mom also placed one on me.


PLACE
TALISMAN
GLOW
TALISMAN

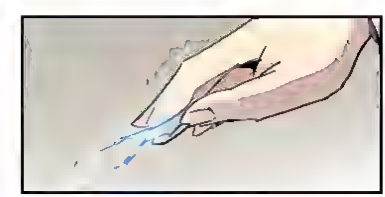
I didn't feel a thing!!
Did you ever feel mom's Guardian Talisman?
It's definitely stuck on you so don't worry

Che~ Looks like I still can't place the talisman inside your body like mom
SLAP
Just go around with it on your back

~~!!
A key ability of the Training Talisman is the ability to lessen the strain on your mind and body when you use a technique.
When a beginner uses emission two or three times, they tire quickly. Basically, the talisman takes the damage for you.
Thanks to the talisman, you'll be able to use emission ten more times per day. You'll receive that much more training thanks to it.
As you train, the Training Talisman will receive your damage. Thanks to that, it will slowly break apart.
Eventually, it will become dust and crumble away.
By that time, you'll have truly grown in skill.
Another key point to the talisman is that it seals off your latent power while it is stuck on.
That's similar to the Guardian Talisman.
When mom placed that in me, I wasn't able to use any strength at all.
Right. It's similar to that.

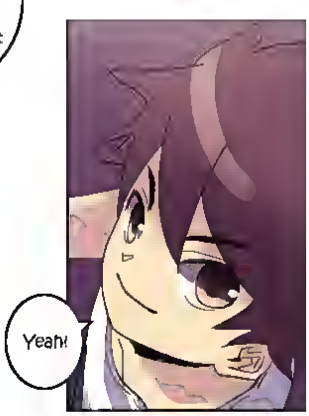
By the time the talisman disappears, how much stronger do you think I'll get?
It should at least... Solve the problem of having to wait three minutes per attack
Depending on how much you've trained your power might go up, too!
Ooh!!
From now on, you must train at least two hours per day!!
Yeah!!

How's the Training Talisman?
Just like noona told me, I practiced every day without fail.
Hmm.



It's done for.
CRUMBLE
ALRIGHT!!

Now that the talisman is gone, why don't we go out and test your skills?


Yeah!

So this is the home of the witches Ailnean Castle.

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SOUL CARTEL - CHAPTER 68

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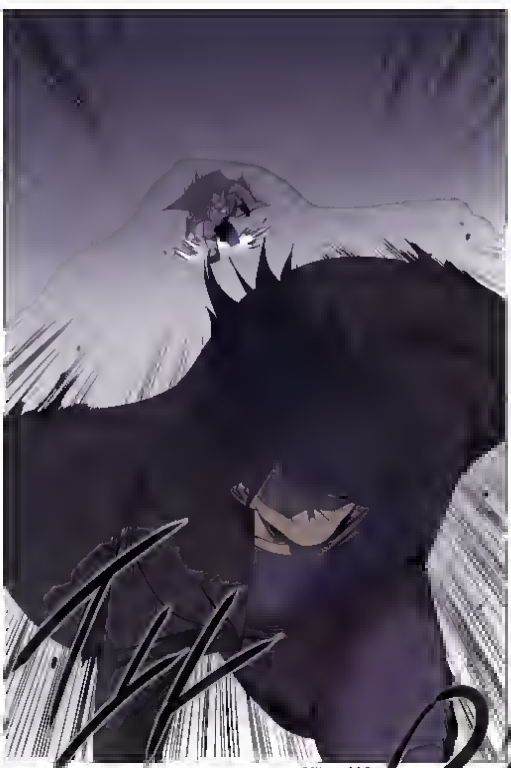
SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

68

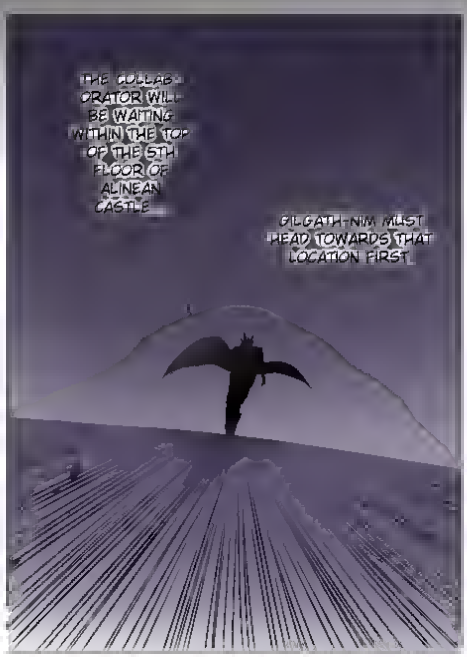
PLACE

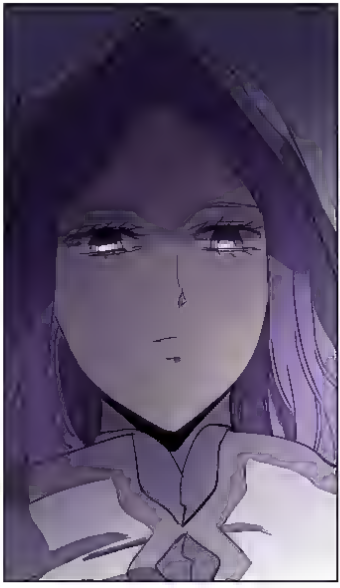
LEAP


SFX: WHOOSH

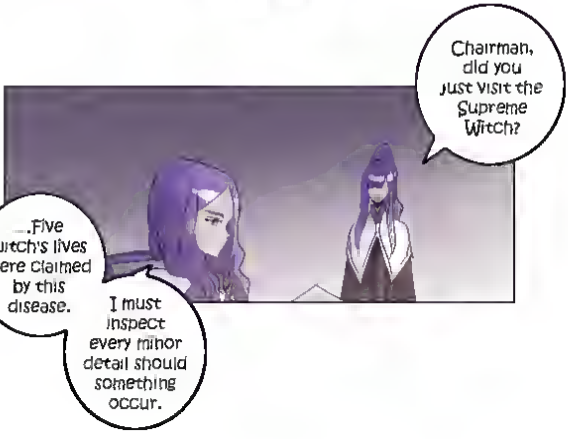
JUST AS ANY PLACE HAS THEIR ISSUES... WE HAVE AN INSIDE 'COLLABORATOR' WITHIN THE CASTLE.
SWISH
SWISH
Milon, you know I don't work with people I don't trust.
Gilgath him, please make this time an exception.
She is someone who has been working with us for the past 300 years. She is trustworthy.

On top of that, if it weren't for her, this set up would have been impossible.

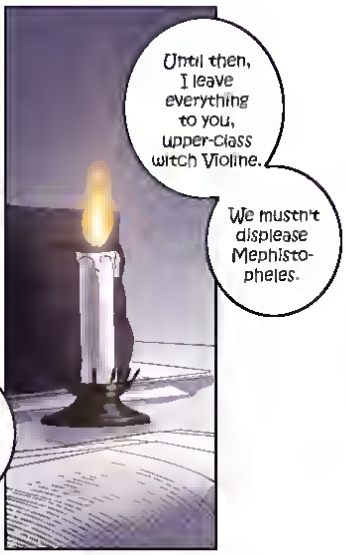

THE COLLABORATOR WILL BE WAITING WITHIN THE TOP OF THE 5TH FLOOR OF ALINEAN CASTLE.
ELGATH-NIM MUST HEAD TOWARDS THAT LOCATION FIRST.



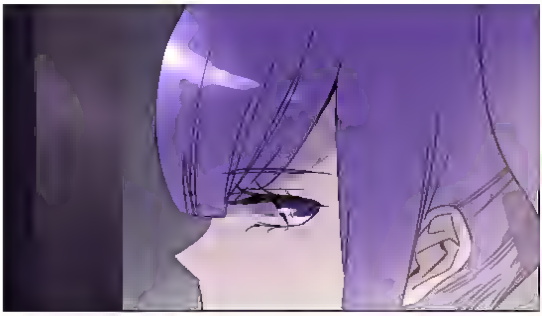
We have set three groups to deal with the Archdevil in shifts for morning, noon and night.
I assume there has been no change in the situation?
Yes, nothing in particular so far...

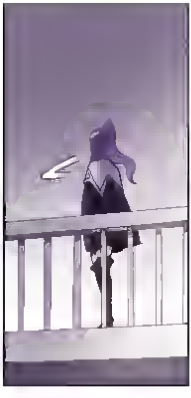

Chairman, did you just visit the Supreme Witch?
...Five witch's lives were claimed by this disease.
I must inspect every minor detail should something occur.

We finally found the path out of this dark situation
The time to set our resolve draws near

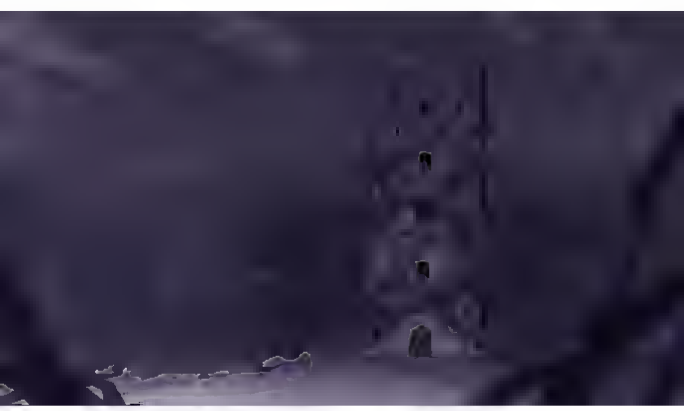

Until then, I leave everything to you, upper-class witch Violine.
We mustn't displease Mephisto-pheles.
Under-stood, Chairman.

COUGH,
COUGH

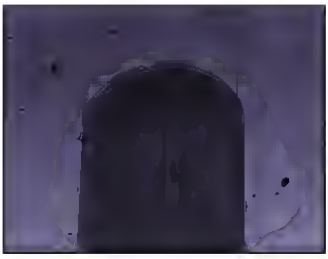




CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK



THE MEETING PLACE IS THE TOP OF THE 5TH FLOOR...



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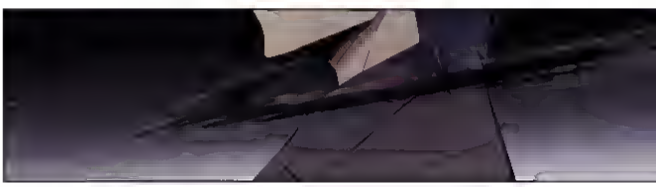

TAK
SFX SWOOSH

WHO ARE YOU?!
That's what I would like to ask
SFX: GLOOOW

To our castle's...
Little intruder...

Faust.

So you have returned, Ms. Soo-in?
Yeah, since there's no reason to stick around Shi-oon all the time.
PHEW. ALL THIS PLAY IS TIRING ME OUT
PLOP

After I took off his Training Talisman, he's in the middle of getting used to his strength.
For the moment, the 3 minute cool down for his emission is gone.
What a relief. That attack was quite risky.
But he's still lacking. Since he's only able to move his body afterwards.
He still cannot release consecutive hits. He must wait another 3 minutes.
Right now, Airen is helping out Shi-hoon.
Since she received so much help from us... She said she wanted to return the favor in some way or form.
That's why Airen is helping out Shi-hoon using her Gargoyle Knights

TAKE OUT A HUNDRED GARGOYLES.

The training should help him get used to sudden encounters.
If he puts all his effort into it, he may even get more power as well. He's working on both factors at the moment.

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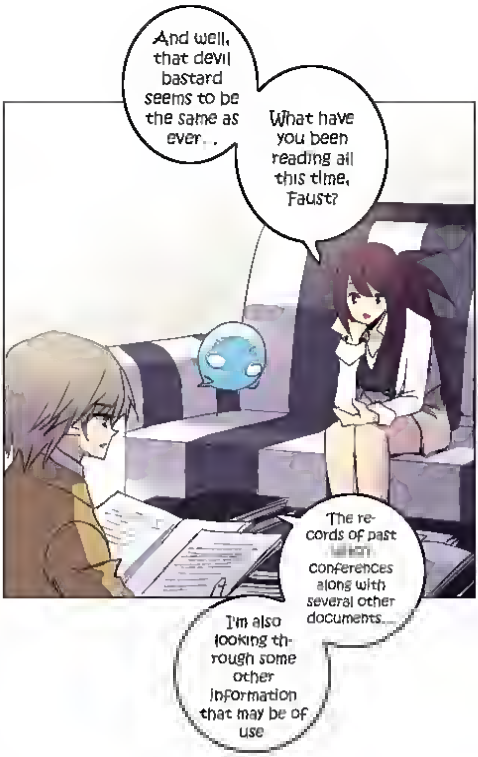
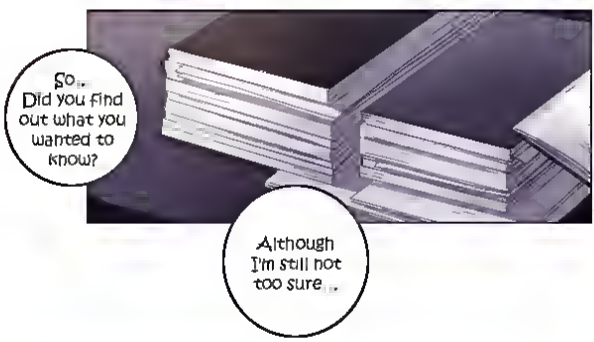
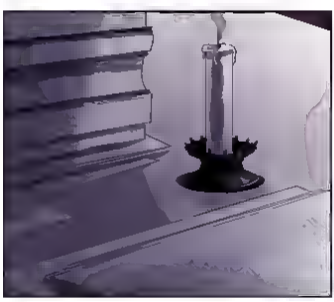

And well, that devil bastard seems to be the same as ever...
What have you been reading all this time, Faust?
The records of past [illegible] conferences along with several other documents...
I'm also looking through some other information that may be of use


So... Did you find out what you wanted to know?
Although I'm still not too sure...

It seems... There could be an entity that has been hiding herself for some time.
How should I put it... As if under a mask...



Greeting me in this fashion is a little rude.

Calling me an intruder...
I'm just a simple guy here to do his job...

Also, that isn't a line that should be said by a collaborating witch...

Was that attack just now used to test my skills?
I can understand your cautiousness but the Witch's castle is riddled with all sorts of traps and enchantments
Reaching the top itself should be more than enough to ascertain my skills

Had my mission been to remove you...
You wouldn't even have had a chance to hear me speak.

...I assume you already know your mission?

Coope-
ration with
the witches
after receiving
their aid.
Containment
of the
Archdevil
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And...
Capturing the humans.

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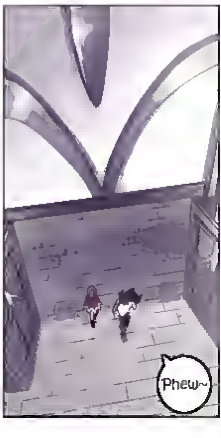

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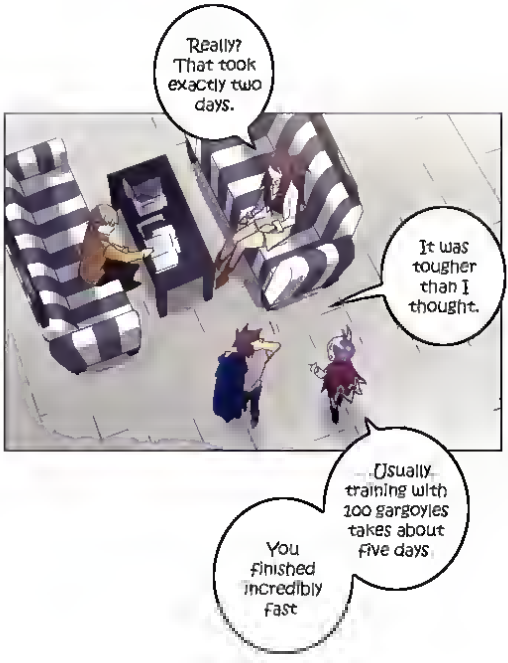
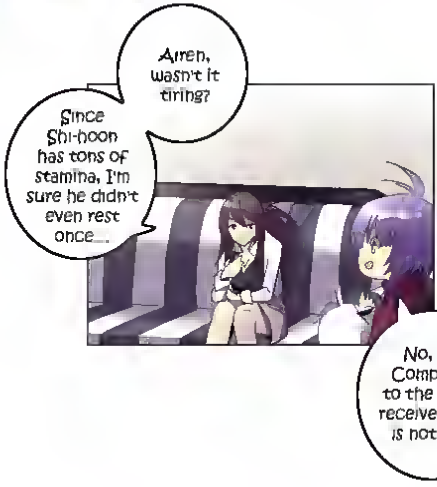
Training complete!


Really? That took exactly two days.
It was tougher than I thought.
Usually training with 100 gargoyles takes about five days
You finished incredibly fast

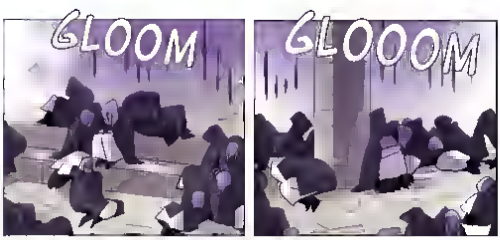
Really~? Well, I did hit sandbags every day at home.
The training felt similar.
So, the results?

There was a huge improvement since you took off that training talisman.
I bet I'll far surpass what you imagined!!

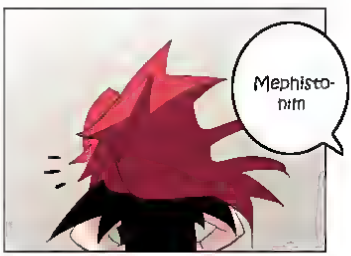

Airen, wasn't it tiring?
Since Shi-hoon has tons of stamina, I'm sure he didn't even rest once...
No, no. Compared to the help I received, this is nothing

I'm just glad I was even a little help.

Putting that aside, Mephisto is ..



Mephisto, you've been playing for three days without rest. Aren't you tired?
Nope. Not at all
Everything is so fun. Now then, what shall we play~?
You're about to play even more?!


Mephisto-nim

I have come to give my greetings.
First, allow me to apologize for what I have done.

HEY!! YOU!!
POINT

Who were you again?
?!

N-No way... He completely forgot? About me....?!
??
...This is the best result you could ask for.

I am the council member Shiole. Although we have met several times already...
Hm?
I am currently taking the place of the Supreme Witch who is ill in bed

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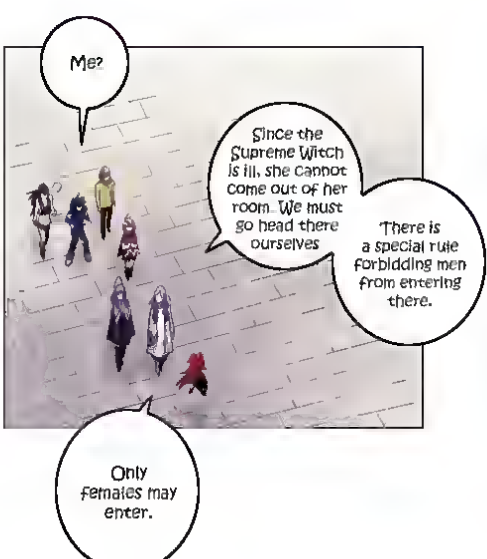
Right, the Supreme Witch was sick, huh?
That is correct. If it is fine with you, would you like to greet her?
I shall guide you there.

Alright.
I've had my fill of fun for now. Why don't we be off?

NOONA, FAUST!
LET'S GO TOO!!
Yeah

I apologize... But Cha Shi-hoon-nim and Faust-nim must stay behind.

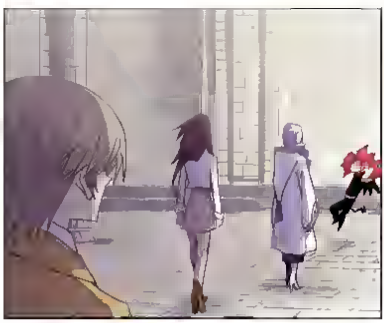

Me?
Since the Supreme Witch is ill, she cannot come out of her room. We must go head there ourselves
There is a special rule forbidding men from entering there.
Only females may enter.

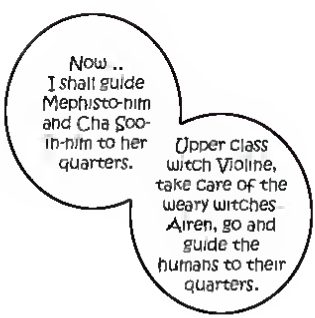
This is a long held tradition for us witches.

Then what about Mephisto...?
You stupid? Gender has no meaning for me.

Angels are angels, and devils are devils.
Do you under-stand?
I... I SEE
Then the only ones qualified to enter apart from the devil...
Is just me
Me too, noonim~!
No.

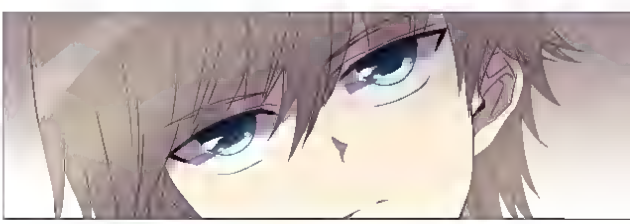
Well then, I'll go with Mephisto so you and Faust stay behind.
Al right




Now .. I shall guide Mephisto-nim and Cha Soo-in-nim to her quarters.
Upper class witch Violine, take care of the weary witches Airen, go and guide the humans to their quarters.

Yes ma'am

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK



CONT READ HIGH QUALITY SCANS AT
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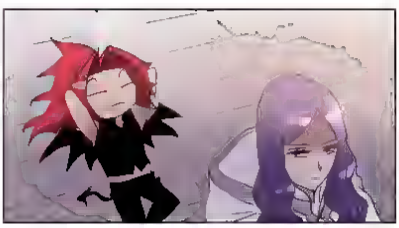
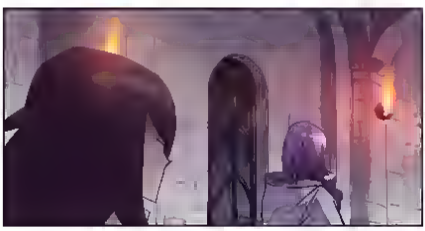
Although it kinda bothers me only sis went...
Since Mephisto was in a good mood I'm sure it'll be fine.
By the way, what was the method only Mephisto could use to heal an illness...?
If they specifically needed Mephisto, it's probably because of his particular ability.

Mephisto's ability to transform
Since Mephisto is able to transform smaller than the naked eye can see...
He can personally enter the body and destroy any bacteria or virus
If he becomes too small, his strength also falls. But if it's getting rid of a virus, I'm sure that's no problem.
ENTERING THE BODY?!
Well then... I shall be off. Rest well.
Wait a moment, Airen.

I have something important to say... About the current situation.

...?





Faust-hm. what do you have to say...?

You know I asked for several documents and records.
Airen, while Mephisto was enjoying himself...
Yes, since I'm the one who brought them.

Since I don't have substantial evidence... Much if it is my own conjecture. However...
I believe there is a conspiracy going on within the shadows.
A conspiracy?!

Yes...
A conspiracy that holds... The entire clan of witches at stake.

A CONSPIRACY THAT HOLDS THE WITCH'S AT STAKE...?!
Let me start from the beginning... There was something that bothered me with this situation.

The document requesting Mephisto to come.
Upon the Supreme Witch's life at stake... Why on earth would they hand over such an important document to a lower-class witch?!
This doesn't make sense at all
You could say... The document that was sent almost didn't want...
Mephisto to come ..!

Faust-nim
That isn't the only suspicious point.
The witches hold the most knowledge of medicine and treatment within the entire Underworld
They know every illness within the Underworld and also hold the treatment for them as well.
This is what made the clan of witches so special
But even after a year, forget about treatment, they haven't even found the cause of this disease...
And on top of that, the Supreme Witch became infected... This is truly a case among cases.

With all this in mind, I came across three possible conclusions.
First, this disease is from a natural cause.
This is the most unlikely conjecture... If this is the case, there's no reason to bring Mephisto.
After all, if that truly is the cause, the probability he'll be able to heal her is quite low.
Second...
This disease is something the witches themselves created.

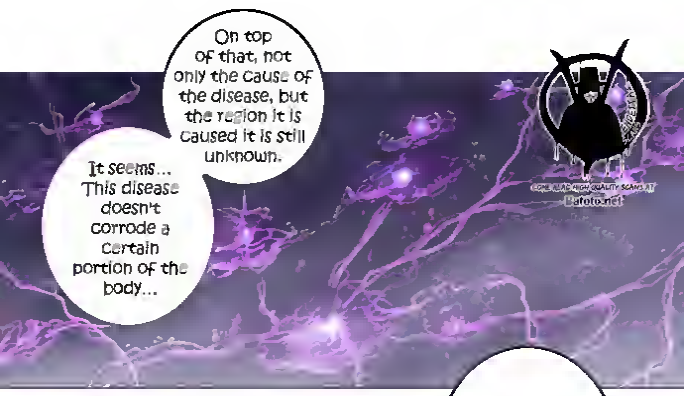
Made secretly
A biological weapon designed in order to attack the enemy
...!!

FAUST-NIM!
That is why I sought the documents.
I investigated every area of research and even looked through all the transactions made.
However, there was no evidence of any experimentation. For the most part, most research was based on creating mass quantities of an existing medicine.
Of course. After we formed an alliance with the angels, we stopped creating weapons of any kind
It has already been 700 years.
If that's the case... The last third conclusion... The final possibility...

Is the influence of a third party.
The ones responsible for creating ...
A virus even the witches cannot heal.
If that's the case... The five witches whose lives were lost, along with the Supreme Witch... Did not simply contract the illness.

They have been assassinated ...
Or were treated as test subjects.

That's ..!!
I believe it is more likely they were test subjects.
As for assassination... There isn't much benefit in assassinating the Supreme Witch.
If you look at the record of this illness... It's rather suspicious that each of the five witches contracted the illness sequentially.
Apart from those five, there hasn't been anyone else infected. Even the Supreme Witch contracted the illness after the five lives were lost.
And the symptoms... Although it seems they're all similar, each case had slight changes in detail.
It's almost as if someone is gathering data from an experiment.

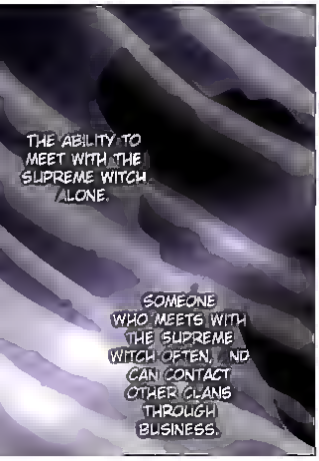

On top of that, not only the cause of the disease, but the region it is caused it is still unknown.
It seems... This disease doesn't corrode a certain portion of the body...

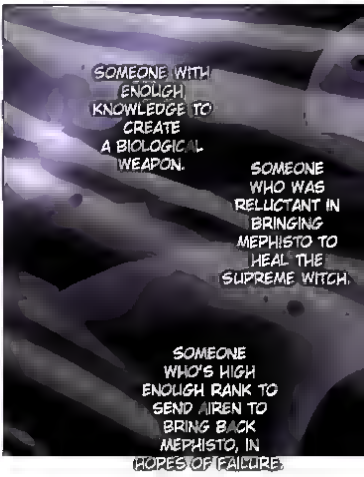
But rather mutates... The entire body itself.

Then a collaborator who is part of this third party...

Might exist... Among the witches...

Who is it, Faust?
I can't say.
But, there's a high probability the collaborator is working alone
To the start with, after looking through several documents belonging to different departments, there were no signs of infiltration
Even among the witches, there were no conclusive evidence available.
This is why the collaborator is probably working alone
Assuming that's the case, the possible suspects must fulfill certain conditions .


THE ABILITY TO MEET WITH THE SUPREME WITCH ALONE.
SOMEONE WHO MEETS WITH THE SUPREME WITCH OFTEN, AND CAN CONTACT OTHER CLANS THROUGH BUSINESS.

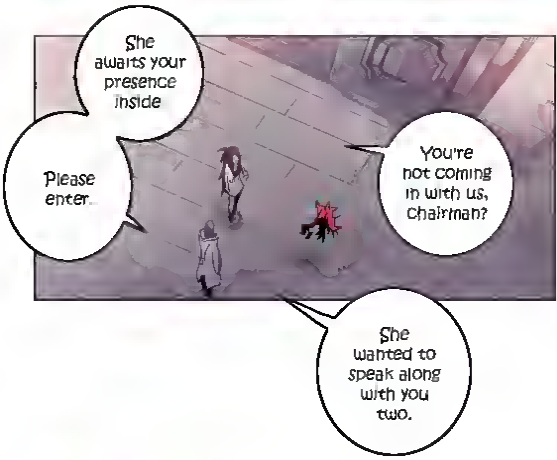

SOMEONE WITH ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.
SOMEONE WHO WAS RELUCTANT IN BRINGING MEPHISTO TO HEAL THE SUPREME WITCH.
SOMEONE WHO'S HIGH ENOUGH RANK TO SEND AIREN TO BRING BACK MEPHISTO, IN HOPES OF FAILURE.

A MENTALLY STRONG PERSON WHO IS NOT AFRAID OF DEATH IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE HER GOAL.

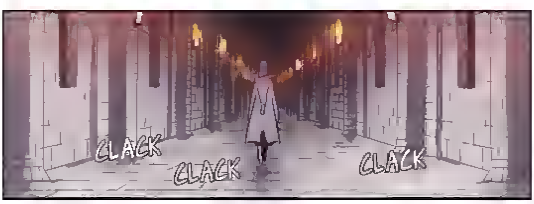
I'm sure a couple suspects will come to mind.

A high ranking person with extensive knowledge....
Meets with the Supreme Witch often ..
If you also consider the other conditions...
Upper-class Violine-nim?!
Chairman Shiole-nim?!

There is one more person...


She awaits your presence inside
Please enter
You're not coming in with us, Chairman?
She wanted to speak along with you two.

Well done, I shall return to guide you after everything is over.
...
Well, we're here so let's go inside


CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

CREAK

Is this really the place?
It's so dark, I can't see
Welcome.
If... This was all done in secret by a person of power...
And assuming that the five lives lost...
Were sacrificed for the sake of completion of the experiment...

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The most likely suspect...
I have been waiting.
STEP
Is the Supreme Witch... Herself.

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소울 카르텔

70

THE SUPREME WITCH?!
NO... THAT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE! HOW CAN SOMETHING LIKE THAT...!!
There are enough suspicions
She is the most suspect out of anyone else
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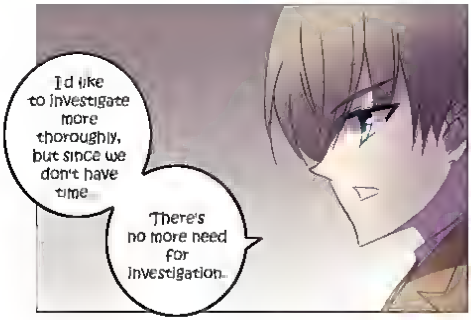
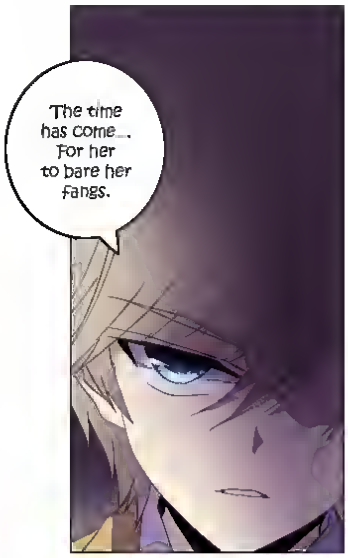

I'd like to investigate more thoroughly, but since we don't have time
There's no more need for investigation.

Since the criminal will take action first.

First?
The moment Airen brought Mephistopheles to this castle, the situation changed.
If Mephisto had come to help the Supreme Witch, that is the worst case scenario for the suspect
All the efforts the suspect put in will go to waste Therefore, the possibility the suspect will take action is high

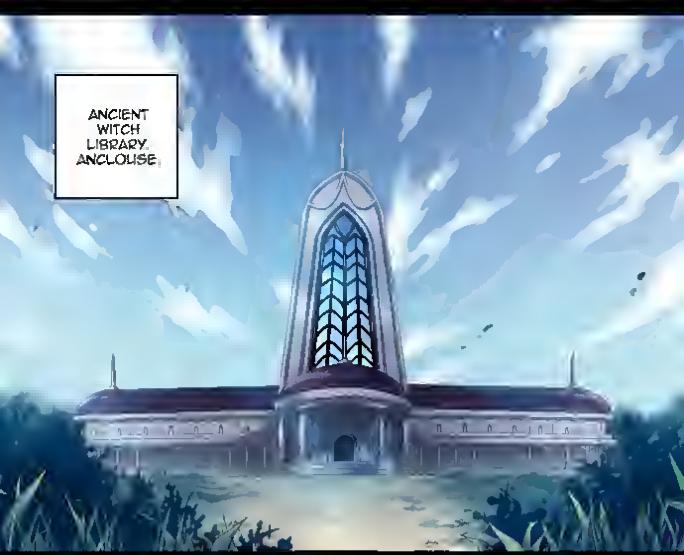

The time has come... For her to bare her fangs.

But why...
Would she have sacrificed those witches...?

I believe...
This incident is related to another incident that happened in the far off past...

An incident...
Thought to have ended 300 years ago...
There still remains...

Remnants... Of the far off past...


ANCIENT
WITCH
LIBRARY,
ANCLOUISE

KNOCK
KNOCK

Inea.

CREAK
Inea, you
inside?

SFX: CLUTTER
Oh my... Messy as usual.

SFX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
Hey, Librarian. Where are you?
You still alive?

PUAH~!!
SFX: POP

PHEW~
LIBRARIAN INEA.
Hey, if it isn't Shiole.

Ugh So much dust. You're supposed to be the librarian here. Don't you ever clean up?
Even if you call me a librarian, nobody comes here except me.
More importantly, it's been quite some time~ Chairman Shiole.
Stop making fun of me. Since I recently rose to this position, I'm going crazy with all the work I have.

By the way, it's been some time since I've asked you for an aide. What's taking so long?
That's the very reason why I came here.
Ah, really?
TURN
TURN
Where? Where?
Where's the witch you brought?
PEEK

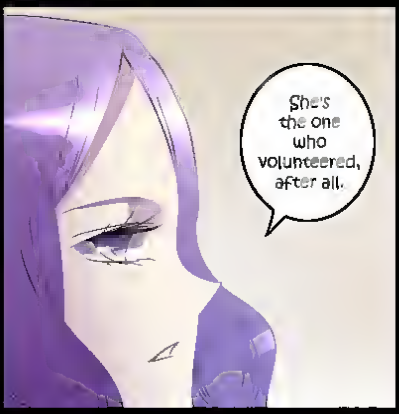
Hello.
My name is Airen.

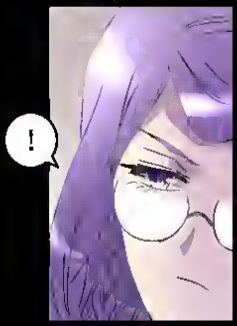
Hey there... How old are you?
21 years old...

...

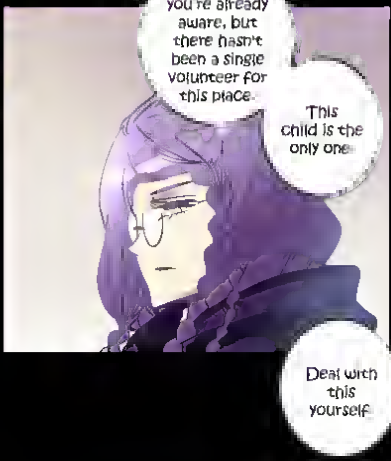
YOU KIDDING ME?!!

I ASKED FOR AN AIDE, NOT SOME KID!
YOU THINK THIS IS A DAYCARE?!
Even if you say that she already learned basic magic. Although she's young a witch is a witch.
SHE'S STILL AN APPRENTICE!
ON TOP OF THAT, OUT OF 24 STAGES, SHE'S ONLY A 2 STAGE BEGINNER! SHE'S A COMPLETE KID, HOW WILL SHE BE OF HELP?!
Whether she'll be of help will depend on you


She's the one who volunteered, after all.


!

I also discouraged her, but she insisted on coming to this place.
She said there's a book she must find.

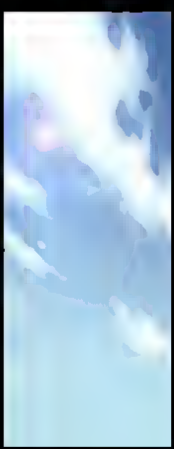

I'm sure you're already aware, but there hasn't been a single volunteer for this place.
This child is the only one.
Deal with this yourself.

SCRATCH
SCRATCH

This place is an Ancient Witch Library
The vast knowledge of ancient witches are stored here
Back then, the number of witches far outnumbered the amount we have today.
Thanks to that, they ended up creating the largest library within the Underworld.
Although it has been 400 years since I've been appointed librarian, there are still places I haven't been to.
So apart from this region, never head towards the storage basement.
Unless you want to be lost forever.
...Yes ma'am.

By the way, is there a spell you're good at?
Um... I can make air.
Elemental lineage magic. Creation of air. That's basic of basics
Anything else...?
Other than that...
It's fine... Your job will be to clean up and organize everything
Don't do anything else.
Alright...
In particular...
Don't ever open any books without my permission.

Since this is a library where you must never open books
A LIBRARY WHERE YOU MUST NEVER OPEN BOOKS...?!



SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

SWIIIPE~

Teacher~ Here's an afternoon snack
?!
TAP TAP TAP
NOD

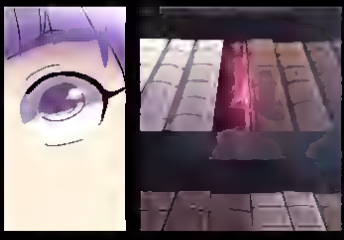
These are cookies I freshly baked.
Ah... Really?
BLANK~

MUNCH
~~!!!
Since it's fresh, they're warm and delicious, right?
SHIVER
...
WHAT DID SHE PUT IN TO GET A TASTE LIKE THIS...?
Hey kid. That one spell you're good at.
Go on and use
ENOUGH WITH THE COOKIES
FLASH

SFX: SHREAD
Right, this feels as fresh as mountain air.
Rather than cookies, do this once in a while.
Okay!

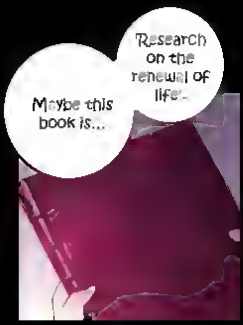
STRUGGLE

Phew~ That was high
TAP
TAP



THAT BOOK IS...?!

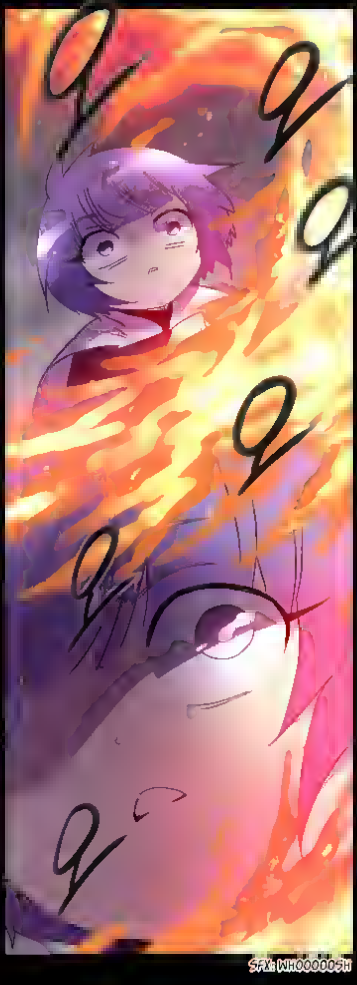
Alright!
I took it out~


Maybe this book is...
Research on the renewal of life!

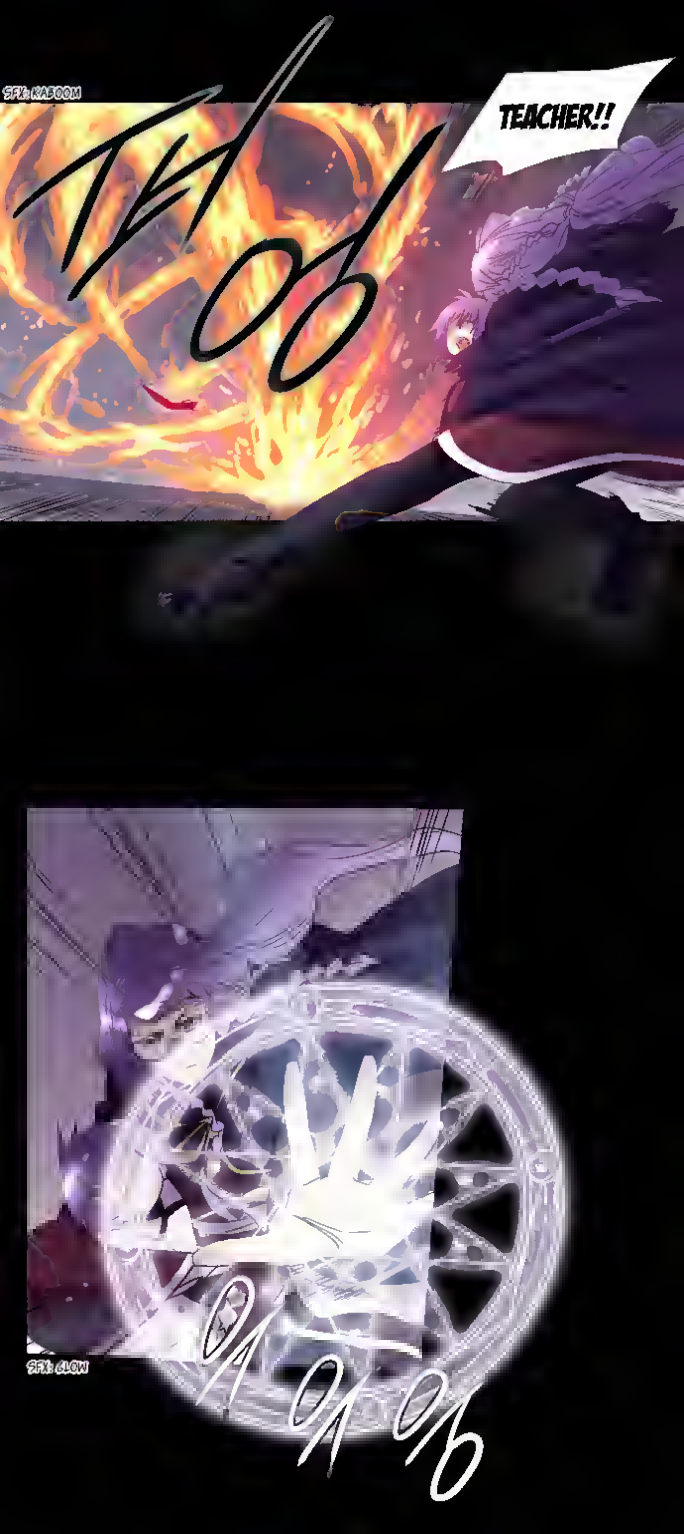
TURN
TURN

SFX: FWOOOOSH
KYA!!

ANCIENT MAGIC CHORUS OF FLAMES
SFX: FLAAAAAZE


SFX: WHOOOOOSH

!!


SFX: KABOOM
TEACHER!!
SFX: GLOW
01 01 06

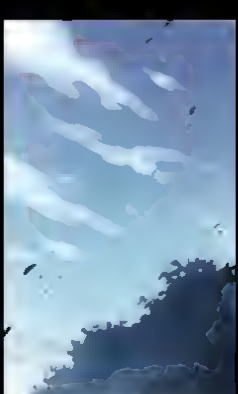
ANCIENT MAGIC
FRIGID ARROWS
SFX: CRACKLE CRACKLE

SFX SSSSS

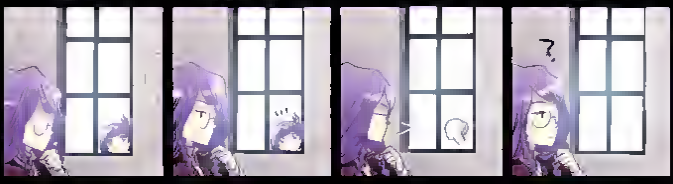
Teacher... I, that's...
I told you never to open any of these books!

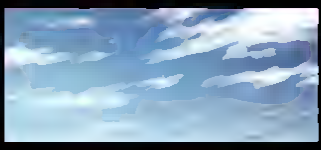
This is a place where the knowledge of ancient witches are stored.
Although this place may hold knowledge that far exceeds those of Angels and Azrael, many of these books also have a fearsome spell or curse enchanted of them.
That is why I told you never to open these books.
This is a problem that involves your life.
That is why nobody wants to volunteer here.
I-I'm sorry. I just...
Go back.

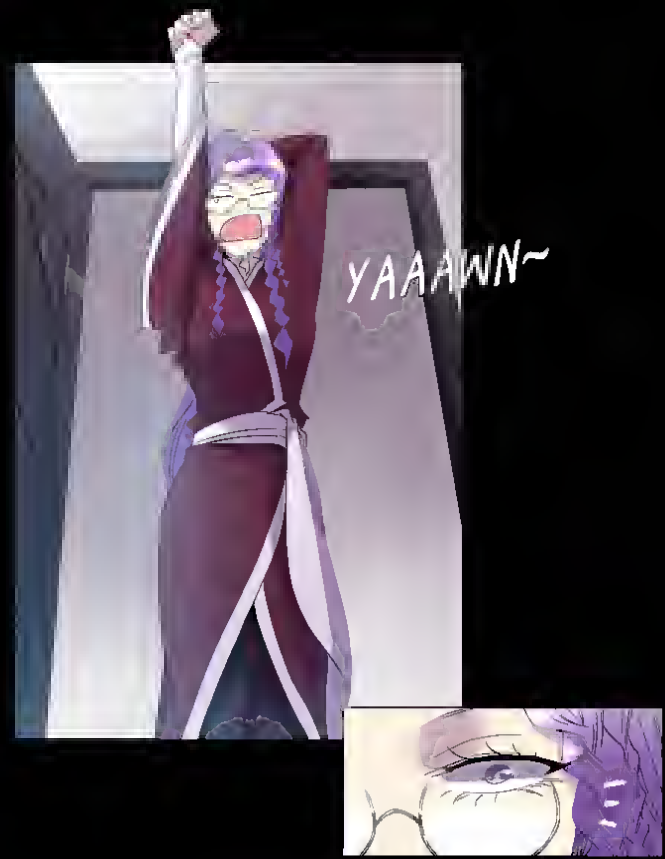
This isn't a place you should be in.



SCRICH
SCRICH

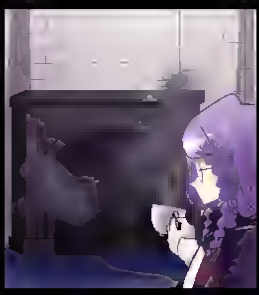

?




YAAAWN~

SHE EVEN CLEARED THE MATERIAL I WAS WORKING WITH. I WONDER WHERE EVERYTHING IS..?
AND ENOUGH WITH THE COOKIES.

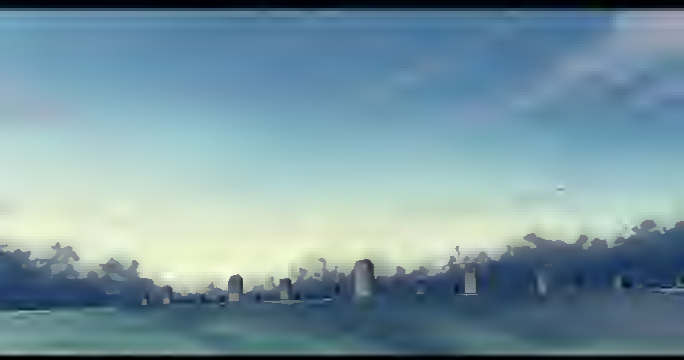
...
This place is sparkling.

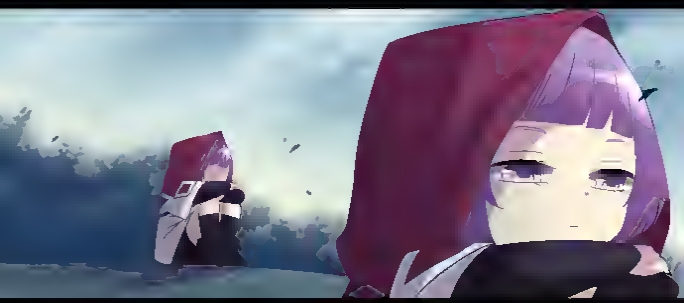


PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
WHY IS SMOKE...?!
?!
SFX: BOOM

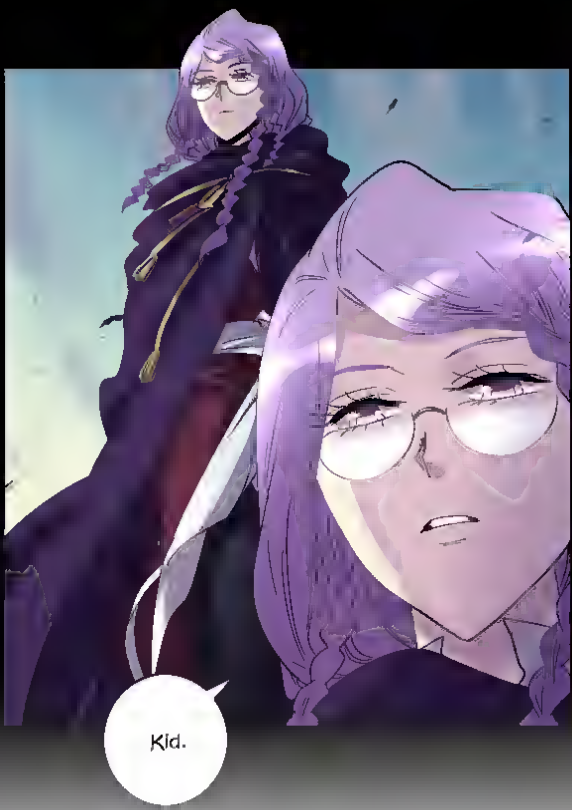
RISE
...SHE'S EVEN CLEANING THE CHIMNEY?

WIGGLE
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
WIGGLE





I was wondering why you weren't coming today... So you were here, huh?
!!



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소울 카르텔

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SOUL CARTEL - CHAPTER 71

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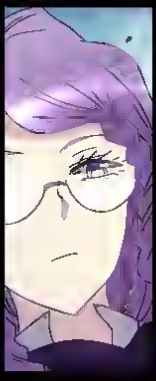
Raw Link: http://comic.naver.com/webtoon/list.nhn?titleId=423384



Untoto.net

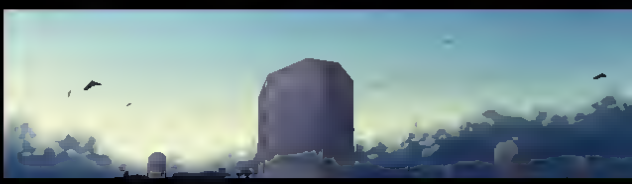
There's no need to run.
HALT

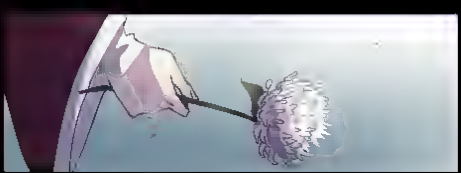
I came here since I also had business here.

SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

71





Did you know my mother?
My senior. Since she ranked directly above me, we were quite close.

I've only seen her through pictures.

The witches are a special clan consisting of only females.

Every hundred years, when the night's aura is strongest... Witches utilize magic in order to create new life by splitting their own life force into two.

This is incredibly dangerous magic as failure... Results in death.

With three out of ten witches failing... Witches risk their lives to create new life.

The very reason why witches number so few...

Is because we risk life in order to earn life.
Your mother, my senior, also...

I want to revive her.
I heard that all sorts of hidden spells lied within the Ancient witch library.
I believe there exists a spell in order to revive my mother.
I... Want to find that spell no matter what.

STROKE

I'll teach you how to tell whether the book is safe or not, so don't open anymore books as you please.

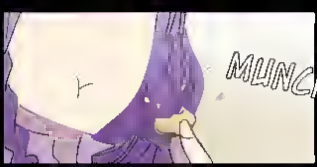
And if you are unsure, be sure to bring it to me and ask.

...Yes ma'am!

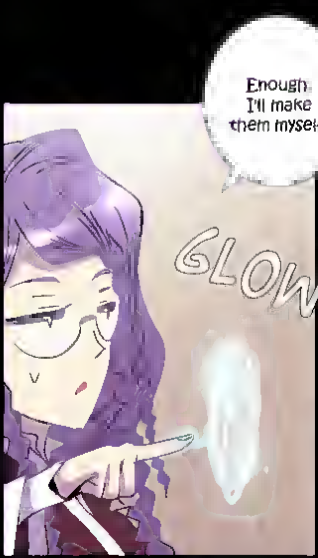
And can you leave my desk alone? Since you keep clearing the desk, I feel like I'm going treasure hunting every day.

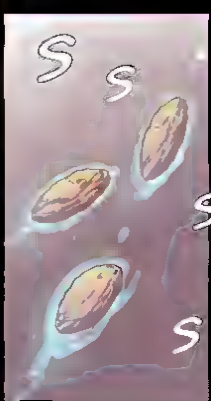
Okay. I'll stop doing that!

Teacher, I brought snacks~
TAP TAP TAP
Ah, thanks. Don't tell me it's cookies again?
...That's all I know how to make.


MUNCH

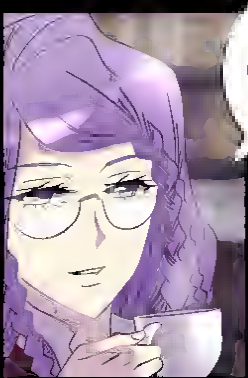
...Salty.
NGH!! ANOTHER FAILURE--!

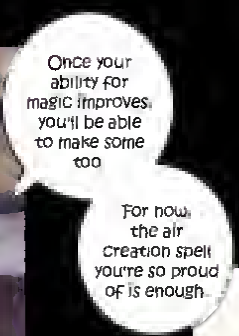

Enough. I'll make them myself.
GLOW


S
S
S
S

OOOH~!
CLATTER

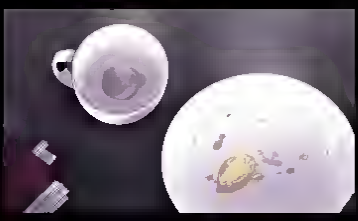
You can create simple dishes utilizing Cooking Implementation magic
When I lack time to cook this proves convenient
DELICIOUS~!
와냑
와냑
와냑
SFX: MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

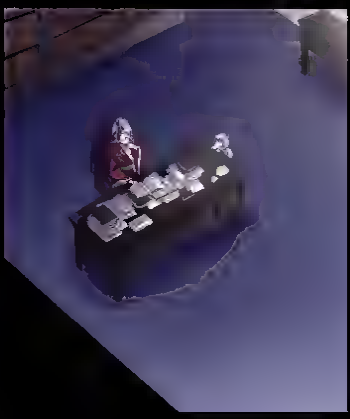


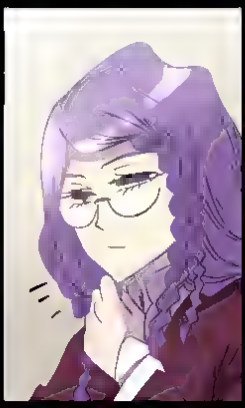

Once your ability for magic improves, you'll be able to make some too
For now, the air creation spell you're so proud of is enough

Okay.

ok
ok
ok
ok
SFX: AWOOOSH







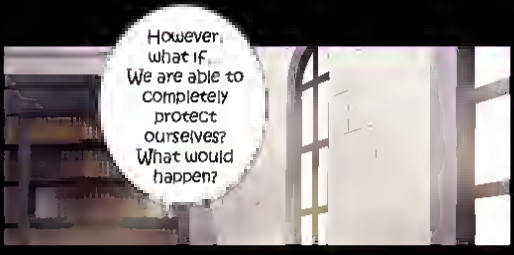
Right. All upper-class witches carry out their own individual research.

The clan of witches number only 500 in total. Each witch is precious.
Because are clan is so small in number, we naturally focus on developing our clan.
In order to cover up this weakness of ours... We create new magic, develop new medicine, and spread throughout the Underworld risking our lives.
Within the Underworld there is a struggle between many forces... Angels devils, demons and unique clans like us...
All of these forces collide within a never ending battle.
If you look throughout history...
Even if a war breaks out between two forces, all other forces must shoulder the burden.
This is because the victor always tries to monopolize all the power

If one victor somehow manages to create absolute authority within the Underworld, the balance of this world would crumble
And minor clans such as us would probably be wiped out or enslaved.
In order to avoid such a scenario... We have no choice but to go out and intervene
We stand with the weak and go against the strong. Much blood has been spilled due to this unwanted war.

Our friends and comrades have been sacrificed for this same reason.

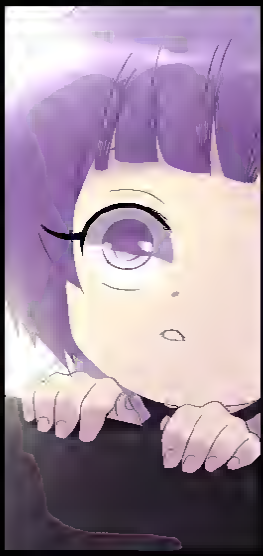
Batoto.net


However, what if, We are able to completely protect ourselves? What would happen?

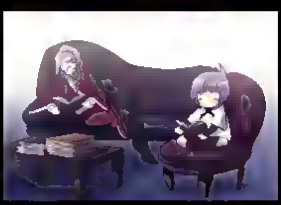
We need not bother with wars of others.
Nobody will be sacrificed due to some pointless war.

A miraculous power that will protect all the witches.
I truly believe such a power exists.
Several witches that shared my belief have been researching this topic for quite some time.
Especially within this library... There are still countless books that hasn't been opened.
The underground storage hasn't even been fully explored. It is unknown territory.
I believe the information I need lies within these tomes.
No matter what danger I must face... I will find the power... That is able to protect everyone

That is my dream.



I see.



Come on in, Chairman Shiole.
Have you been well, Airen?
Did you get a little better at magic?
I'm working real hard.
Oh, really now?

Well then, I'll go bring some tea
What brings the terribly busy chairman Shiole...
To this decrepit old library?
This library used to look like a pigsty, but now it's much more bearable.
Did you come here to tease me?
Hurry and state your business

Inea...
I'm sure you know already...
But over these past hundred years, it has become increasingly difficult to procure material for potions
Almost every ingredient is lacking. Even our reserves had been depleted. This was a huge crisis
If we were unable to create these potions... Us witches would have lost our most potent source of influence...
So the decision we came upon...
was to trade with the demons.

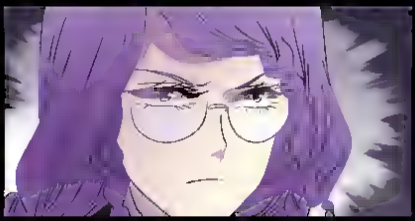
In return for receiving money and raw material, they received 10% of all the potions we make.
Hundred years have already passed since we came upon that decision
But it's not like there was any other choice.
Right. But there's a problem. As we traded with the demons, our dependency on them grew worse and worse
Our rate of trade has increased by about 300% since our former years
CLACK
Thank you, Airen.

And as our trade increases The influence of the demons slowly begins to grow larger
We have fallen into a situation where we cannot rid ourselves of our dependence on demons

And now... The council may come upon a decision that favors the demons...
...
The current problem is the coming conference.
If majority of the 13 members of the council do not object, the decision will be passed.
But this decision will be settled within the Witch's conference.
Your role is to avoid the worst possible scenario.
This is why the position of Chairman is so important.

The exclusive witch's potion that has been prohibited in the contract

Has been decided to be circulated through the demons



How many?

A total of ten-

And among them, invisibility potions and even transformation potions are included .. They are goods which the demons have coveted

If this decision goes through, the demons will acquire even our core potions.
If those potions are circulated... There is no way of telling what would happen to the Under world.
The effect would be the equivalent of us witches backing the demons.
This may even affect our diplomatic relations with the other clans.
And in the worst case, our coalition with the angels may be terminated.
Upper-class witch Liselot is pushing for this decision right now.
LISELOT?!

A influential witch who was once called a genius among the witches.
She is currently the head of the pro-demon party.
Because she managed to amass a sizable following, she has a strong voice in the council
In contrast to her...
I am currently against our growing dependency on the demons...
And am struggling to retain our coalition with the angels...

The coming vote...

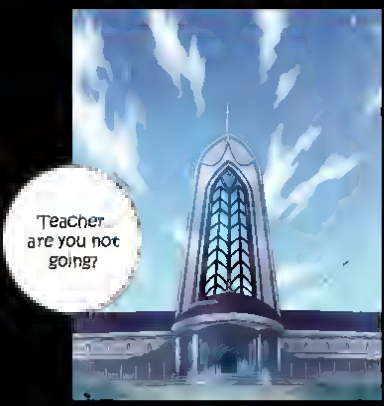
Has divided the witches into two factions.

Upper-class witch Liselot's pro-demon party...

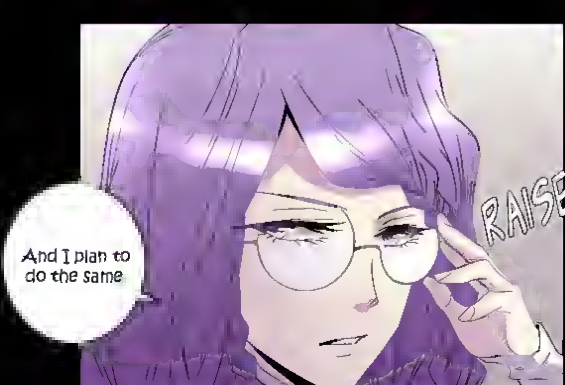
And our pro-angel party.

Hatena.net

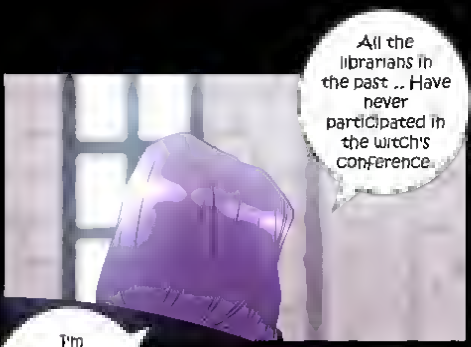
INEA,
THIS IS THE
ONLY TIME I'LL
ASK THIS OF YOU.
PLEASE, ATTEND
THE MEETING.


Teacher... are you not going?

Today's the day of the witch's conference.
I know.
Seeing as there is a lack of upper-class witches, she had no choice but to come to me in order to secure a seat...
YAWN~
Well. I do have a seat in the council... But I have never attended a single meeting


And I plan to do the same
RAISE

Teacher...
The reason why I'm not attending the conference is because I can't attend the conference
A librarian's duty is to guard the Ancient Witch's library...
I have avoided all unnecessary distractions up until now for that same reason



I'm sure Shiole came here personally... Because she was aware of that fact...

Then I shall put my trust in you, witch-him.
The trade of core potions lies within your hands.
Although I may be lacking, I shall do my best to aid you as Nesk Company's represe-ntative.

Upper class witch Liselot.
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SOUL CARTEL
소울 카르텔
To be continued

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THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE IS THE PROBLEM.

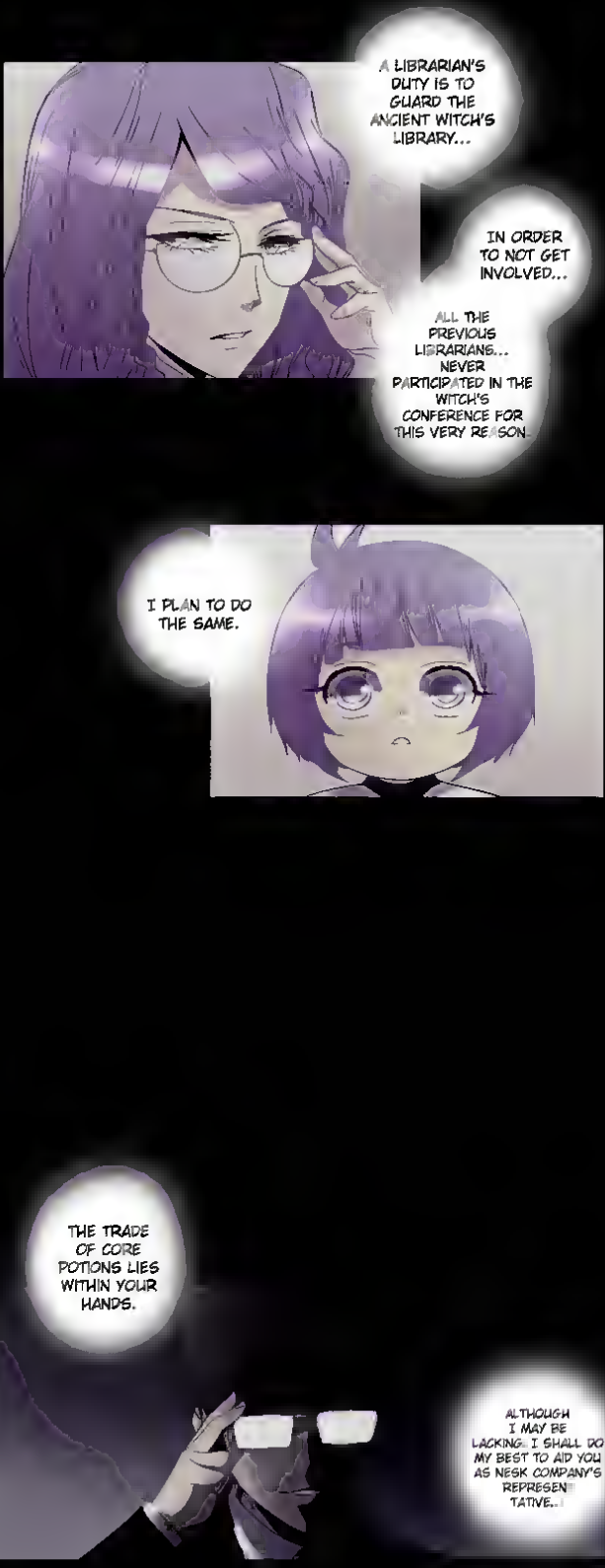
POTIONS SUCH AS THE INVISIBILITY POTION HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED BY THE CONTRACT FOR TRADE.

HOWEVER, THE CONFERENCE IS CONSIDERING TO TRADE A PORTION OF THESE POTIONS TO DEMONS.

IF THIS DECISION PASSES, DEMONS WILL EVEN HAVE ACCESS TO OUR CORE POTIONS.

THIS WILL BOLSTER THE DEMON'S INFLUENCE AND WILL BE THE EQUIVALENT OF US WITCHES BACKING THE DEMONS

THE ONE WHO IS PUSHING FOR THIS DECISION IS UPPER-CLASS WITCH LISELOT
SHE IS THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE PRO-DEMON PARTY.
THE COMING VOTE...
HAS DIVIDED THE WITCHES INTO TWO FACTIONS.
UPPER-CLASS WITCH LISELOT'S PRO-DEMON PARTY...
AND OUR PRO-ANGEL PARTY.


A LIBRARIAN'S DUTY IS TO GUARD THE ANCIENT WITCH'S LIBRARY...
IN ORDER TO NOT GET INVOLVED...
ALL THE PREVIOUS LIBRARIANS... NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE WITCH'S CONFERENCE FOR THIS VERY REASON.
I PLAN TO DO THE SAME.
THE TRADE OF CORE POTIONS LIES WITHIN YOUR HANDS.
ALTHOUGH I MAY BE LACKING, I SHALL DO MY BEST TO AID YOU AS NESK COMPANY'S REPRESENTATIVE...!

DAY OF THE WITCH'S CONFERENCE .

SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

72

I am sure you are all already aware... But ingredients for our potions are constantly lacking.
Currently... we are trading with the demons to offset this problem.
Our top trading partner, the Nesk company, has asked us to extend the variety of potion allowed to be traded.
This proposition is the reason why we are assembled today.
Whether or not we should trade our core potions...

I am sure all of you are already aware of the details...
So we shall move straight to the vote.
Each of you will be handed a ballot with your own name inscribed.
You are all to mark your decision then place the ballot within the box
If majority of the votes are for this proposition, the proposition will be passed.

Liselot-nim.

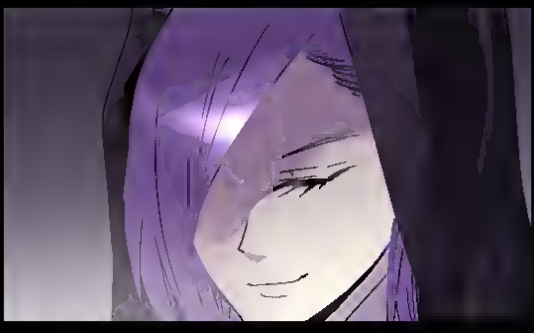
It's just as we suspected Inea and Behelin are not present.

Behelin is currently on a long-term leave...
And as the librarian, Inea never bothers to participate.
Two of the thirteen members of council are not present

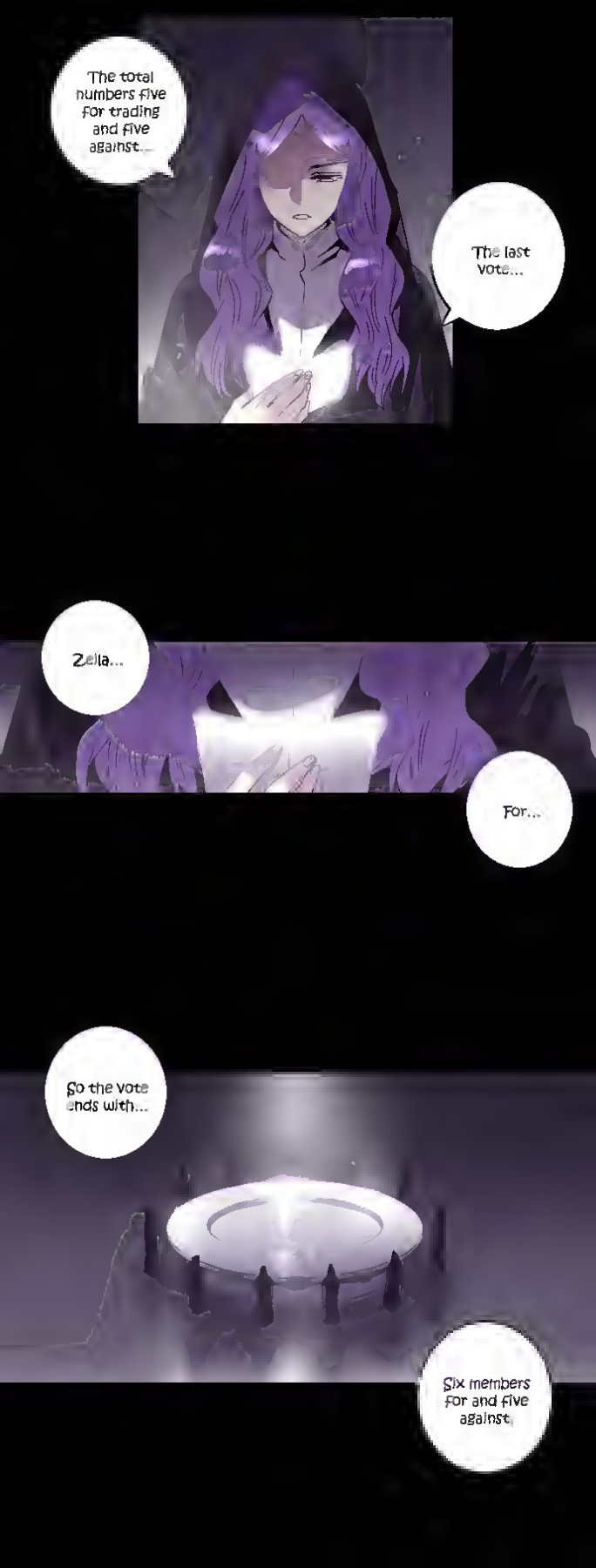
Currently there are eleven members.

We have secured six votes.

The results should end with six votes against five.



Rosilan, for.
Delina, against.
Jelenni, for.


The total numbers five for trading and five against...
The last vote...
Zella...
For...
So the vote ends with...
Six members for and five against.

Congratu-
lations
Liselot.
Thank you.

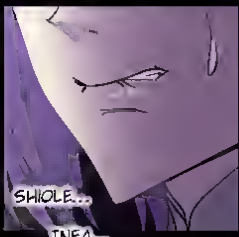
With this
decision passed,
we will be able
to form a
tighter bond
with the
demons.
Hold it

The vote has not ended just yet.
Shiota...
What do you mean? The vote ended with six against five...
There is still one vote left.
Here...

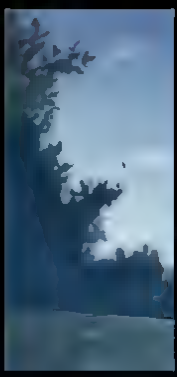
The librarian, upper-class witch Inea's vote.

Since Inea is always occupied with matters within the Ancient Witch's library...
She was never able to directly participate in the Witch's conference.
However, she has told me, the chairman, that she will participate this time, by sending in her vote.
This is her vote.
Supreme Witch, is it really possible to vote without attending?
...There are precedents of such cases.

When a member cannot attend a conference do to inevitable circumstances
The member may send in her vote within an envelope and give it to the presiding chairman.
A similar case has occurred several hundred years ago as well.
The vote has been entrusted to me, the chairman, along with the Supreme witch. The vote is valid.
Although the results number six to five...
With this vote added, the vote could possibly become six to six.
And as I'm sure you all know... In case of a tie, the proposition will automatically be vetoed.
In summary, the decision will lie within the vote Inea has casted.

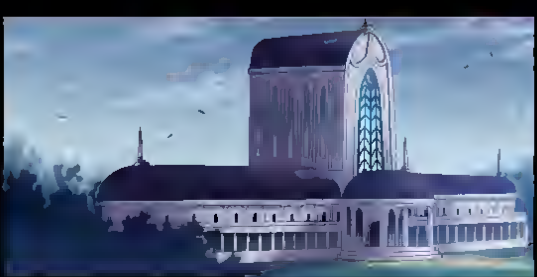

SHIOLE...
INEA...

Now,
I will announce
the final vote.



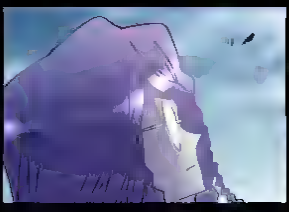
Inea.
You claimed you're busy, yet here you are resting.
WHOOSH

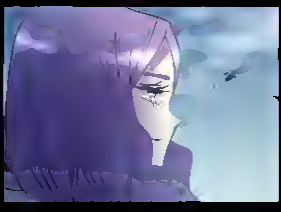
I'm just thinking about some stuff.
I see.

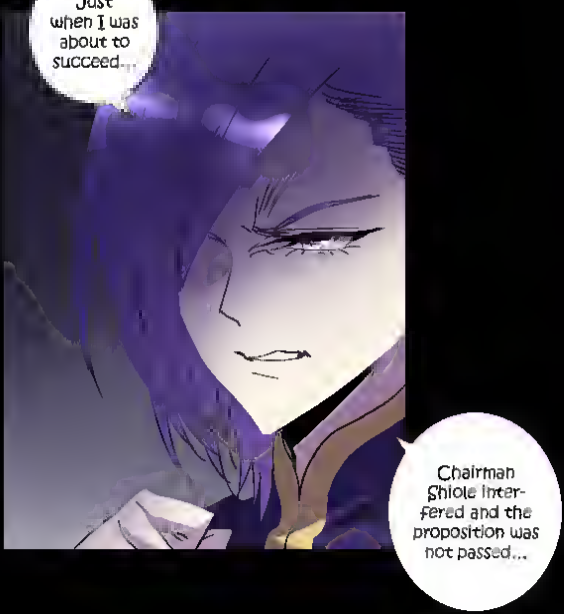


Inea...

Thanks
...






Just when I was about to succeed...
Chairman Shiole interfered and the proposition was not passed...

In order to form better relations with the clan of witches, we have invested a hundred years.
Our president, Gairon, is also aware of and understands how much effort you put in... But the results does not change.
With this failure... Everything we have done goes to naught.

Repres-
entative
Milon, all of
this isn't my
fault...
I am not
asking you to
take
responsi-
bility.
Since we
require you for
our next plan
as well
We are
businessmen
We will never
do anything
that will not
benefit us
We invested a
hundred years in
order to create a
pro-demon party
and overturn the
witch's
conference It is
truly a pity it
failed
Now, we move
onto our next
plan

Next plan... What do you...?
You will show us a demonstration of your skills
We will settle everything using force

Now that our diplomatic and peaceful plan has failed, we have no choice but to resort to force.
Upper-class witch Liselot. In order to carry out your goals, are you willing to use whatever means possible?
If so, the Nesk Company will gladly be your strength.

Please make your decision.

CREAK

CREAK

CLICK

What you men are holding are invisibility potions.
You are handed this these potions for the sake of this mission. The coalition with the witches lie at stake.
A single drop is enough to turn anything invisible. Those potions are top-grade goods.
I am sure you all know what I mean. We must absolutely succeed with this mission.
Our goal is to dispose of all opposing witches who did not side with us.
Carry out this mission swiftly and efficiently.

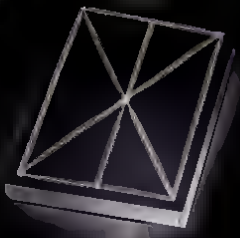
All of you are to turn invisible and enter the castle while avoiding all the enchantments and traps placed within.

The main problem lies within the chains of 'heart' that guard the conference room and the dwellings of the upper-class witches.

These chains cannot be broken in the state of invisibility, even with the aid of other witches.

The sole way is through...

The 'General Studies of Cancellation'.



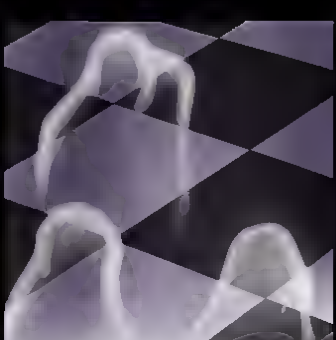
The method to cancel every single type of enchantment... Lies within that book.

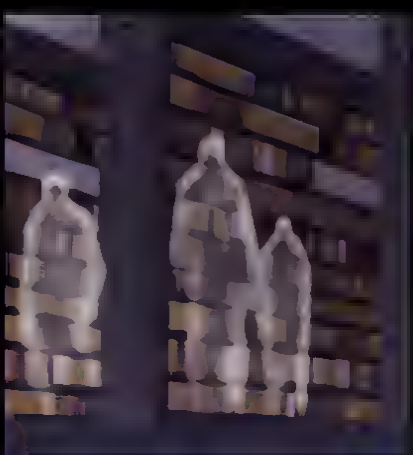
Therefore, your first target is... The location with the book.

You must infiltrate the location and secure the book.

The location is...

The Ancient Witch's Library.





RAISE
FLASH
!!
ANCIENT SPELL THE MIRROR OF TRUTH
WHOOOOOSH

Who are you all?
How dare...
You scum step foot into this place...

Did you intend on entering this place discreetly like mice?
You surely must be joking.
This place is guarded by me, the upper-class witch librarian.
The spell to cancel invisibility is placed on this building. It does not work here.
Are you all demons?
How did you lay your hands on those potions?
What did you hope to achieve by coming here?
Speak.

...It seems I must pry the words out of your moths...
SHHH

That would be trouble-some.
WHOOSH

Inea, do you remember back when we were apprentices?
SHHHH

Now, Shiole may have achieved the position of chairman...
But back then, she wasn't much of a threat.
You and I were always ranked first and second.
...Right.

You, who was hailed as a genius...
Never let go of the top spot even once.

I knew you were on the pro-demon side...
But I never fathomed you would betray us for the demons.
I have never betrayed anyone.

This is all for our sake.

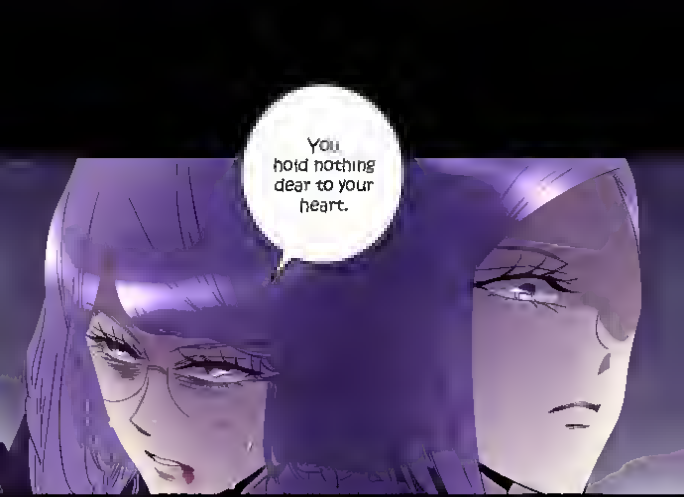
Inea,
I'm sure you know how the witches oversee the balance of the Underworld
In order for one side not to overpower the other, we interfere to stabilize this
This is the witch's form of peacekeeping
That is the sole reason why our clan still exists today

The problem lies within how we're constantly pulled into meaningless fights. The number of pointless sacrifices is always on the rise...
Now, the number of surviving witches only number a little over 500...
In such a situation, countless hours invested into research have no meaning...
At this rate, we are bound to be driven to extinction in the near future.
We must usher in a new era.

GRAB

Now
I
understand
...

Why you,
who stands
at the top and
gifted with
ability...
Along
with being
praised as
a genius...
Can never
become a
Chairman.
Why Shiole,
who had
nothing
particularly
special,
received that
position...
The
reason is
because...


You hold nothing dear to your heart.

Faith, friendship...
Nothing matters in order to achieve your goal.

After you bow down to the demons and wreak this much havoc... You claim this is for the clan?
Don't joke around. This is all for the sake of seizing power.

WHAT THE WITCHES NEED NOW...

IS A RULER WHO WILL BRING FORTH A NEW ERA...

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ONE WHO LETS NOTHING STAND IN HER WAY...

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SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

73

WHAT THE WITCHES NEED NOW...

IS A RULER WHO WILL BRING FORTH A NEW ERA...

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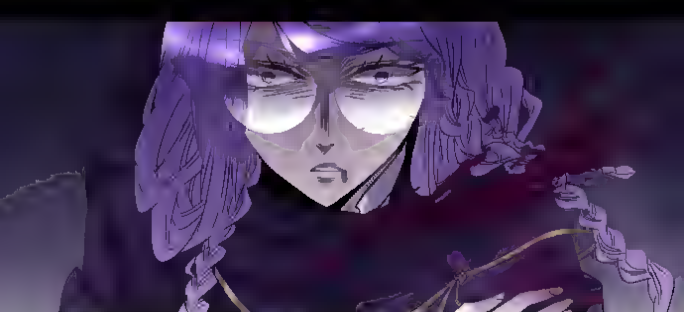


AHHHHH HHHH!!

KGHHHH....!!
Inea.
I don't have time to deal with you.
Let me get straight to the point.
Where is the book?

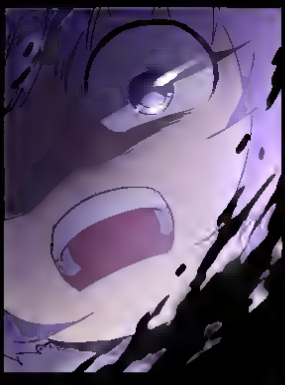
The 'General Studies of Cancellation'?!
Liselot... Why do you need that book...?
Just what spell are you trying to erase?
Don't tell me... You're aiming for the central tower? Are you planning to dispel the special barrier?
Are you planning to infiltrate the central tower and dispose of all the other Upper-class witches?!

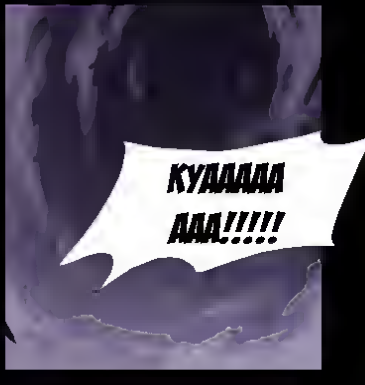
Inea, where is it? That book.
Liselot...
I don't suppose you're thinking... That I'd actually give you that information, right...?
Of course not... I would never expect to find what I need that easily.
However, I don't have the time for this.

It seems I have no choice but to resort to a little extreme method
TEACHER...

Inea...
I know you're not the only one within this library...
GLOW
...!!

Ah ok ok ok
Ah ok ok

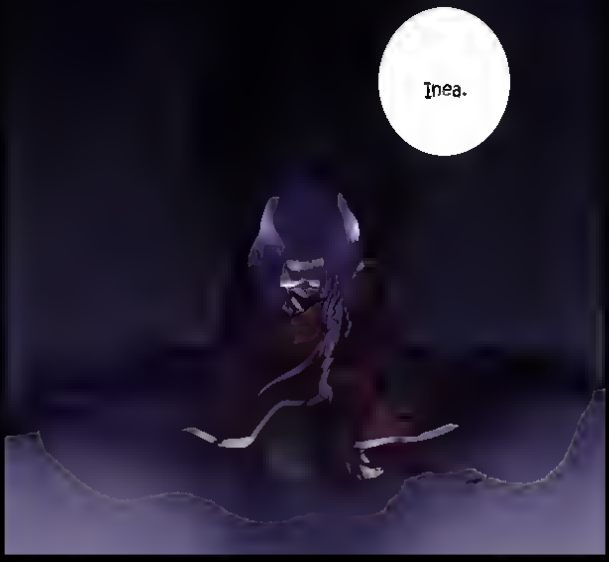



KYAAAAA
AAA!!!!!

BLACK MAGIC THE BRIDLE OF DEATH.
Liselot...
Just how far are you willing to go?

Know this, Inea...
Sometimes... Deceit proves more advantageous than the truth.

This child's life lies within the palm of my hands.


Inea.

I found it!!

We finally retrieved it. We finished our objective.

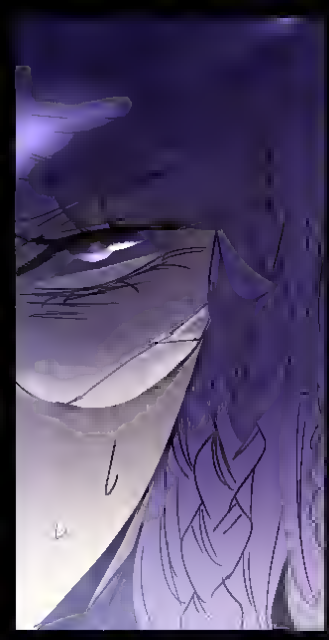
With this book, we'll be able to break the barrier and move on to the central tower.
We're moving on to the next phase. Time to eliminate the Upper-class witches.
...

After we deal with the Upper-class witches and set ourselves in power ...
Be sure to carry out your side of the deal and give me support I need.
Upper-class witch Liselot, that is exactly what we desire. We shall do so.
PEER

SPREAD
Now then, the method of cancellation is...
SFX: SWOOOOOSH

SFX: WHOOOOOSH

...!!
AIREN...
YOU MUST NEVER OPEN A BOOK WITHIN THIS LIBRARY...
BOOKS HERE ARE OFTEN RIDDLED WITH ANCIENT SPELLS AND TRAPS
ESPECIALLY BOOKS ESSENTIAL TO OUR EXISTENCE.. AS LIBRARIAN, I HAVE PURPOSELY PLACED FEARSOME SPELLS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THESE TOMES.
Patch.net

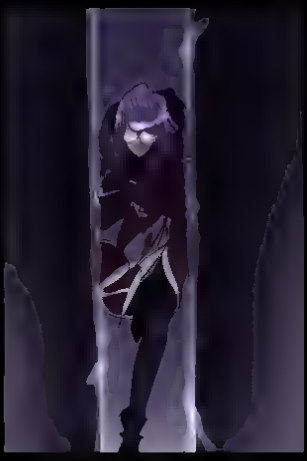


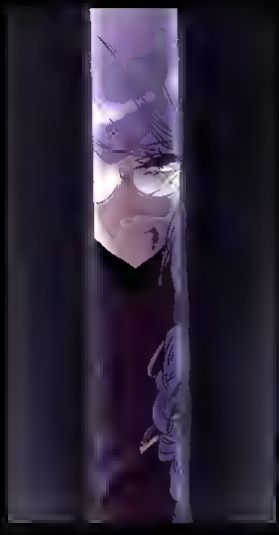
FLA
SH

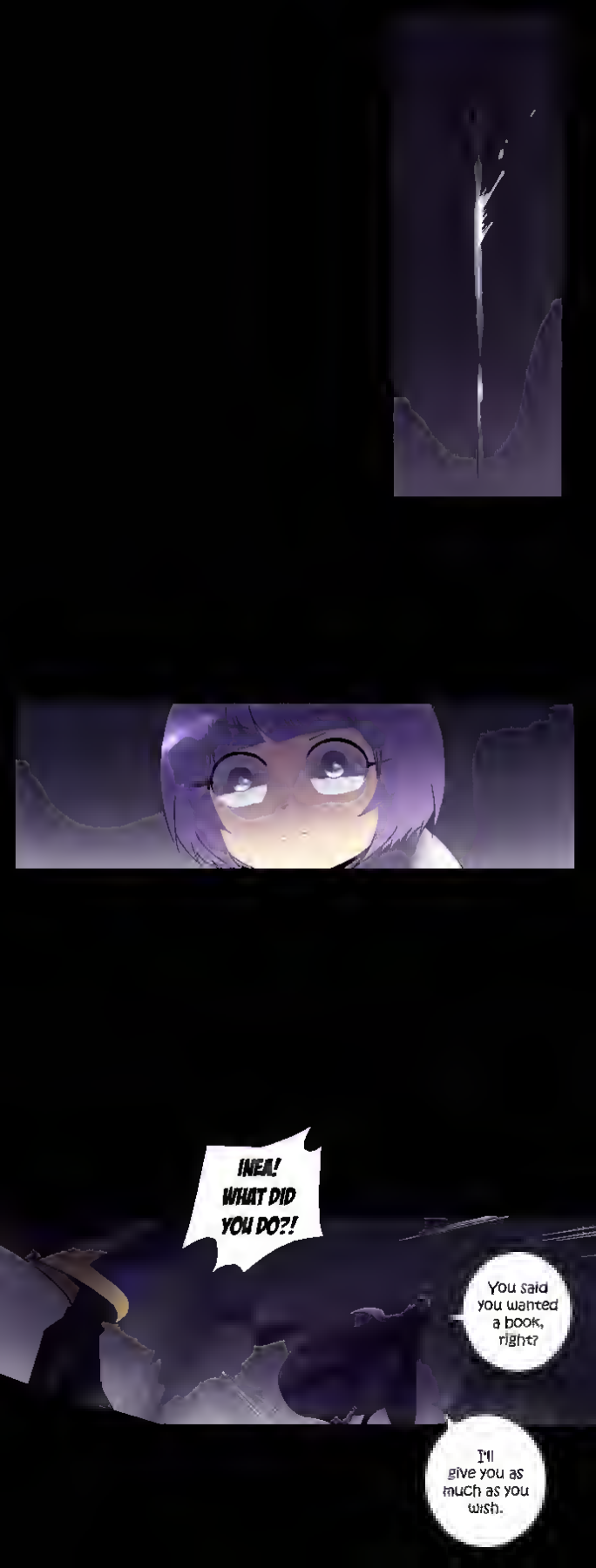
WHITE MAGIC VOID
OF CLOSURE
SFX: GLOOOOOW

GLOOOW
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM

Ow.ow
ow.






INEA! WHAT DID YOU DO?!
You said you wanted a book, right?
I'll give you as much as you wish.

But none of you will leave this place alive

INEA...

3 MONTHS LATER...

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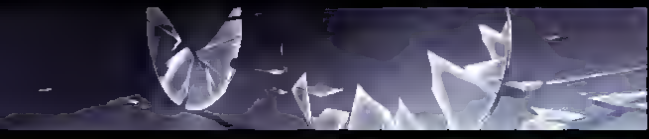
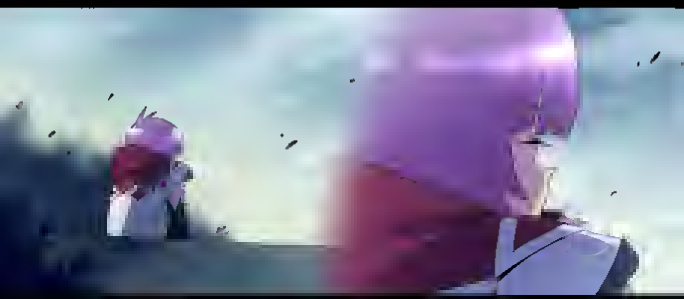
A NEWLY CREATED SPELL MADE BY INEA.
A LOCK-DOWN SPELL MADE FOR THE ANCIENT WITCH'S LIBRARY, THE VOID OF CLOSURE...
EVEN WITH THE COOPERATION OF ALL THE UPPER-CLASS WITCHES I CAN'T BELIEVE IT TOOK SEVERAL MONTHS TO DISPEL THE ENCHANTMENT.

ARE WE TOO LATE...?

CREAK

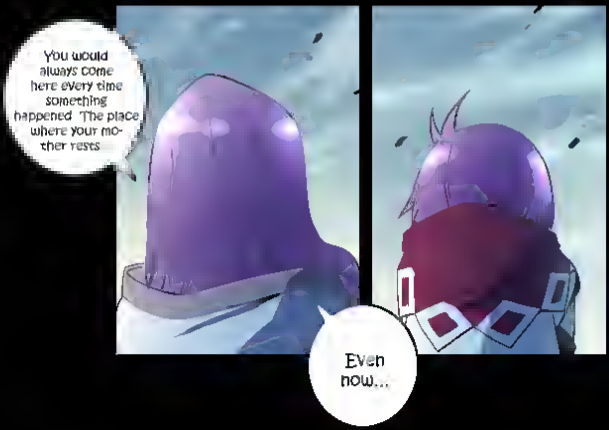


In... ea...



So this is where you were, Airen.

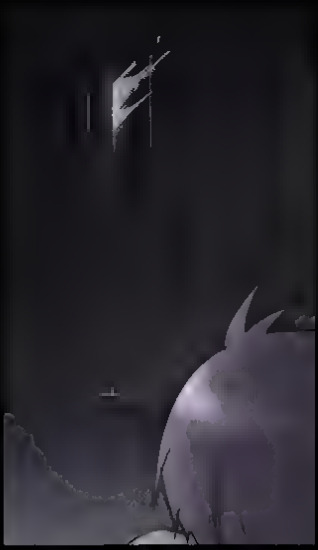
... I knew you would be here.
Ever since back then...

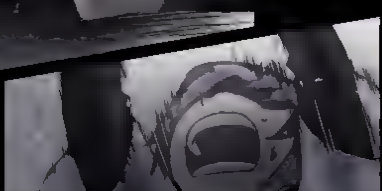

You would always come here every time something happened. The place where your mother rests.
Even now...

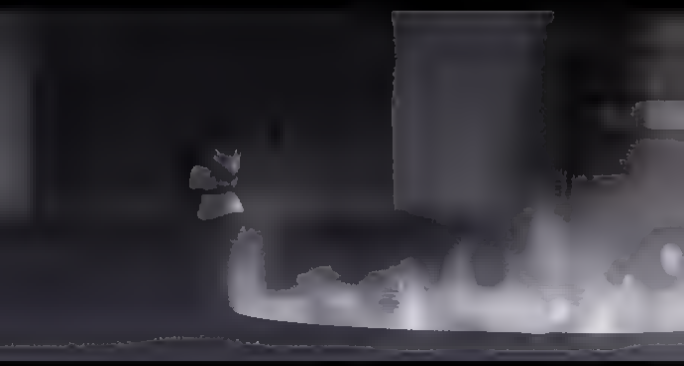
The lock-down spell placed on the library was flawless
Completely sealing off the space within a different dimension, a barrier spell of the highest grade
Through countless years of research... Inea had created a new theoretical enchantment
There were no known methods of cancelling this spell. This was her last resort
A spell that took even the Upper-class witches several months to dispel...
Thanks to that... All the demons ended up dying off.
Due to the lack of souls, they tried to devour one another... And eventually perished.

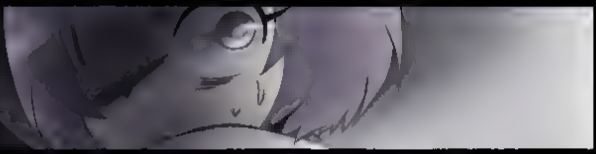
Upper-class witch Liselot managed to stay alive by creating food and water for herself.
As horrible as she is, she was imprisoned on discovery...
And has been executed according to law...
Airen... You are the sole survivor.
The door Inea had been leaning against...
Within that room, we discovered you, Airen.

Your ability for magic had yet to mature.
Only able to use the basics of magic, you were still an apprentice. There was no way you could create provisions for yourself.
We all presumed that there was no way you would have survived.
However...



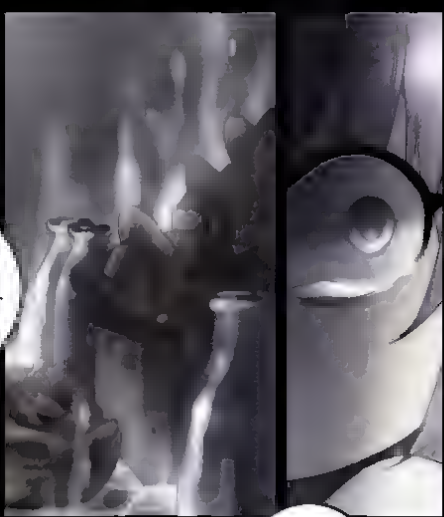




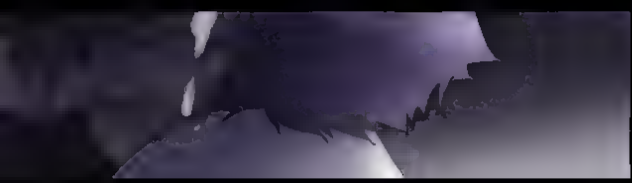


Inea... Probably knew... She didn't have much longer to live...
In order to dispel the barrier... Liselot and the demons tortured her for information.
As death drew closer... She could've ended her life to ease herself of the pain...
However, she did not do so.
She struggled until the very end...

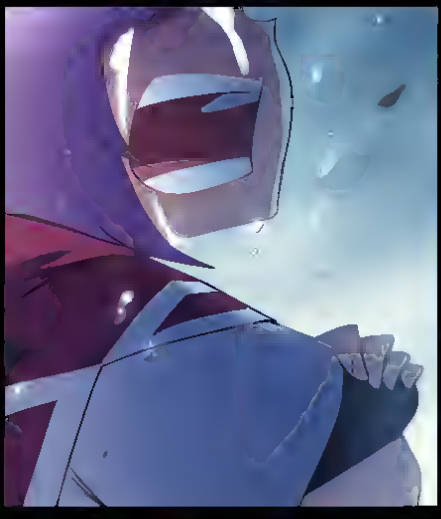
Because...

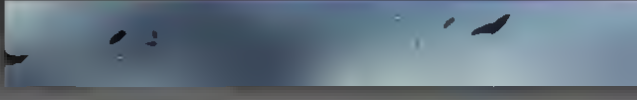

Because she was creating the food and water you needed Airen.
Airen, in order to save your life...
In order to help you survive for even one more day...

Up until the very end... Until she drew her last breath...



It was... Just like her to do that...





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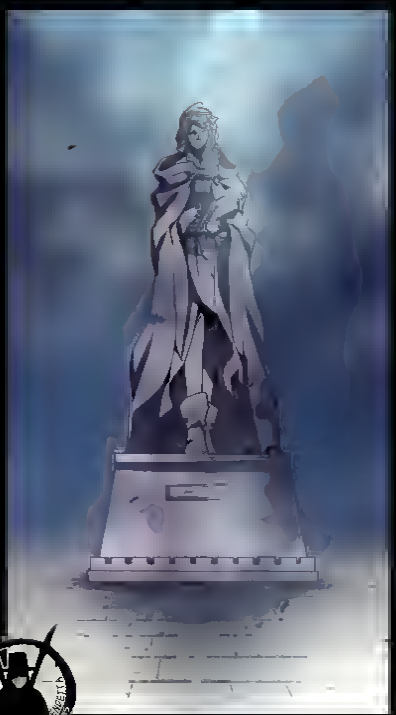
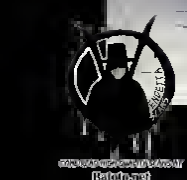
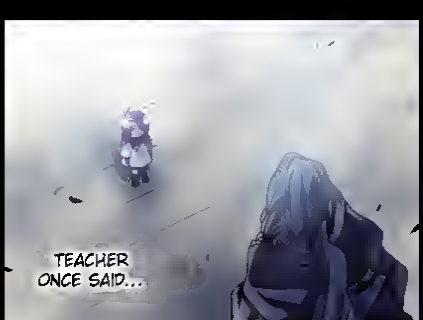





TEACHER
ONCE SAID...

THAT WE WITCHES ARE A CLAN THAT RULES OVER MAGIC AND MEDICINE.
WHILE WE ARE ABLE TO CREATE COUNTLESS NUMBER OF MIRACLES, CONSTRAINTS ARE PLACED IN OUR ABILITY TO REPRODUCE.

WITCHES ARE NOT HUMAN
OUR LIVES MAY SPAN OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS... BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO REINCARNATE
WITCHES CANNOT BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE...

"YOUR MOTHER CANNOT BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE."
TEACHER KNEW OF THIS FACT, YET SHE WITHHELD IT FROM ME.
SHE WANTED ME... TO EVENTUALLY COME TO ACCEPT IT, FOR WHAT IT IS...

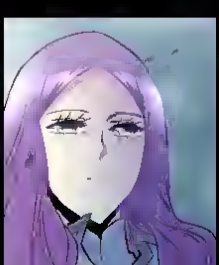
WHICH IS WHY EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF MY LIFE...
FOR THE SAKE OF, PROTECTING EVERYONE

I PROMISE...

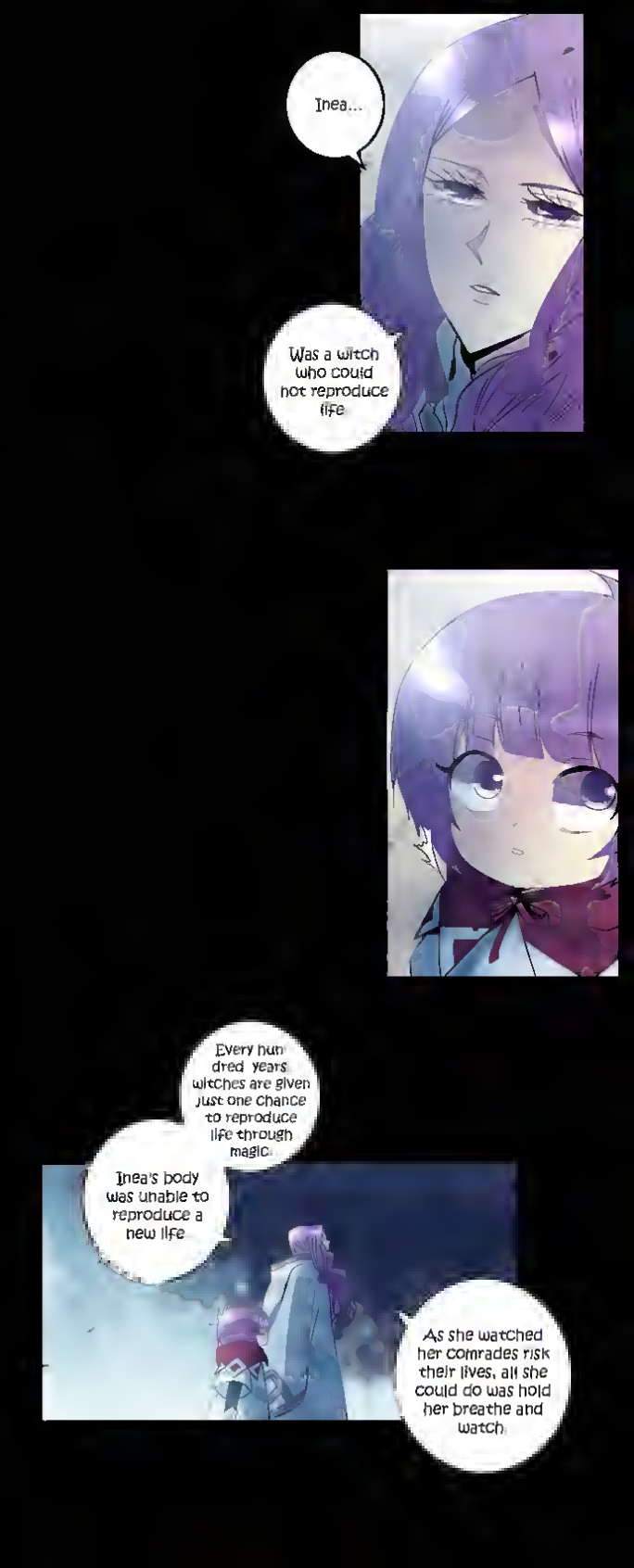
...TO DO MY VERY BEST.
FROM NOW ON... JUST LIKE YOU, TEACHER...
IN ORDER TO PROTECT EVERYONE... I'LL DO MY VERY BEST.

I PROMISE...

Airen...
So you came here again...



Who would have thought she felt such a way?


Inea...
Was a witch who could not reproduce life
Every hundred years witches are given just one chance to reproduce life through magic.
Inea's body was unable to reproduce a new life
As she watched her comrades risk their lives, all she could do was hold her breathe and watch.

Perhaps that was the reason why she decided to hole herself in the library to do research.
In order to protect her comrades... And the new lives to come... She might have felt her research was the only thing she could do.
That was when... An unexpected guest came into the library. You, Airen.
Although she was a stubborn girl, I believe the happiest moments of her life was with you.
As if you two were mother and child.
How did you feel, Airen?

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...I felt warm.

I see...
BRUSH
You had irreplaceable people in your life...

THE ANCIENT WITCH'S LIBRARY INCIDENT FROM 300 YEARS BACK...

THE CASE WAS CLOSED AFTER THE MAIN CULPRIT, UPPER-CLASS WITCH LISELOT WAS... EXECUTED...

AFTER THE INCIDENT, ALL SUPPORT FOR THE PRO-DEMON PARTY COLLAPSED...

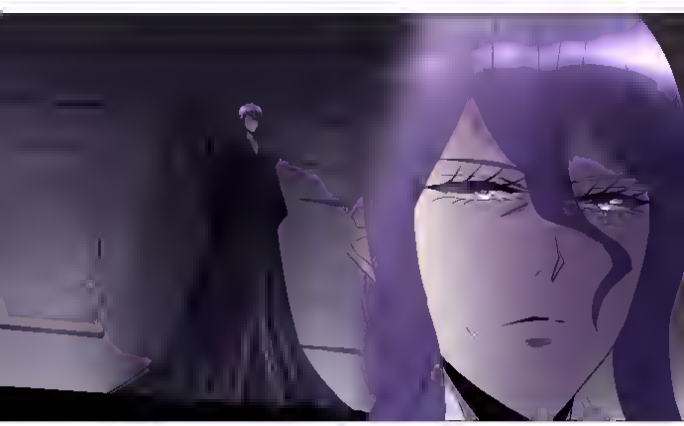
However... What if...
The incident from 300 years ago did not end... And has persisted until the present...?
And if... The Supreme Witch who stood neutral for all this time...
Due to some unforeseen reason... Decided to support demons 300 years when the incident took place...
The two conflicting sides... Born from a single incident...
What Airen had gained... And what the Supreme Witch had gained...

Two conflicting resolutions...
What if, after 300 years, the two sides clashed once more...?

SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

74



The Supreme Witch?

Weren't you supposed to be sick?
You look fine to me.
That is correct.
You were all told that I was ill.

But I am fine as of the moment.

So you're fine?
Was everything just a hoax?
That is not the case. I was truly under great pain...
But the source of that pain was not an illness. It was nothing that severe.
The pain was something I had to endure for a period of time.
Endure in order to... cause a certain 'transformation' within my body.

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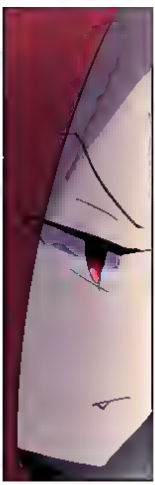
So if you're not sick, what did you call me for?
It is just as I have said.
Since I am not sick, there is no need for treatment.
There is nothing needed to be done by Mephisto-him.

I ask that you close your eyes on this incident and go back to where you once came.

!
!



Well, fine. If there's nothing needed to be done, I'll just leave
Hey, let's go.
What I had said was only directed towards Mephisto-nim

The human must remain here.
Since there is a 'customer' waiting for her.

I have a real good intuition for this kind of stuff. Especially when it comes to fighting...

Supreme witch, the aura you are giving off is quite exceptional.
You are completely different from your previous self that I know. And I am quite familiar with this feeling I sense.
A disparate and malignant aura in contrast to a normal witch.
This is the same aura given off by 'those guys' whom I really hate.

And I sense this aura coming from you, Supreme Witch.
You're hiding something...
Aren't you?

As expected... Of an Arch-devil.
I knew I could not hide this aura from one of your caliber, Mephisto-nim.
However... The talk ends here.

Tell me everything you're hiding
Absolutely everything
I'll make a decision after listening to what you have to say.
This is an order.

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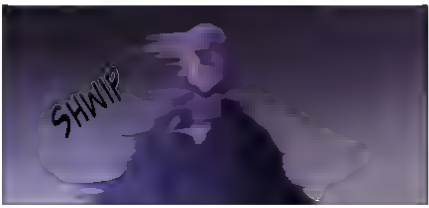
...It seems I have no choice but to face you.
Even if it's against an Archdevil...
There are some things I must protect.

FWOOSH

SFX: WHOOOOSH

SFX: WHOOOOOSH

THIS IS...?!



THE 'TRUTH' BEHIND THE INCIDENT 300 YEARS AGO...

ALONG WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT CAME WITH IT...

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SOUL CARTEL - CHAPTER 75

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SOUL CARTEL

소울 카르텔

75

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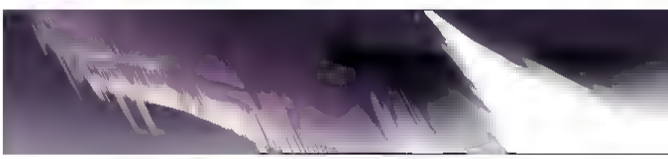
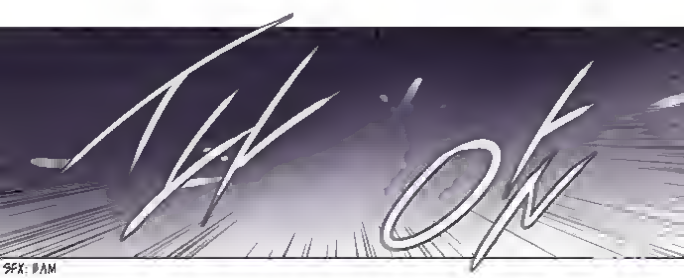
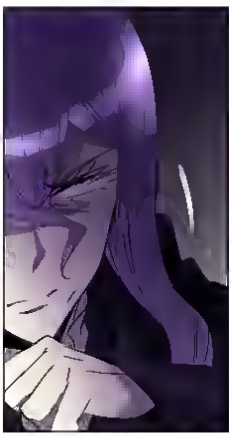




SFX: DAM

SFX: SKIIID



Ms. Soo-in, the Supreme Witch will probably try to meet within her own chambers.
According to the law of the Witches, males are forbidden from entering.
Although Mephisto will be by your side, we cannot let our guard down.
This is for safety purposes.
I shall leave God's Papyrus in your care.
I have ordered it to activate if something should occur.
The condition being...

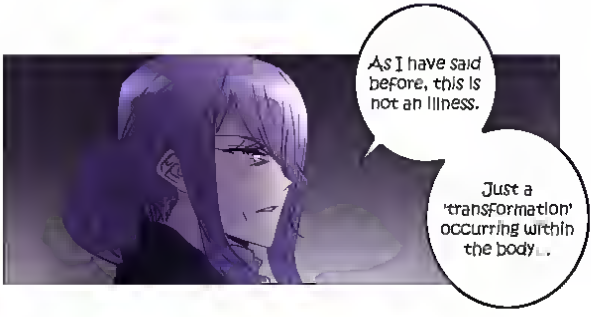
To protect Cha Goo-in...
From all incoming threats...

God's item... To think one would show up here...
Faust-him must have foreseen all this to a certain extent...
And selected the most optimal plan, I see. I am astonished.

On top of that... You said you were a spirit medium, correct?
Your reflexes are quite superb as well.
I did not even fathom you would launch a counter-attack in that position.

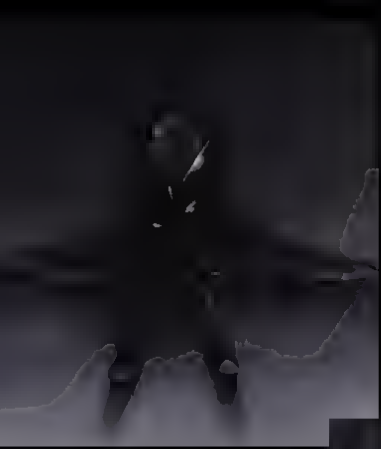
Are you .. Really the Supreme Witch?

...Yes.
I am...
If you're the Supreme Witch... Why are you doing all this?
Many witches have already lost their lives to this illness...
Just what is your purpose for doing all this?


As I have said before, this is not an illness.
Just a 'transformation' occurring within the body...

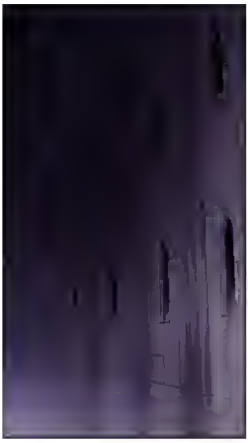
All of this is for the sake of the Witch's future.

300 years ago...
The Ancient Witch's Library incident occurred.



All of this is for the sake of rectifying...

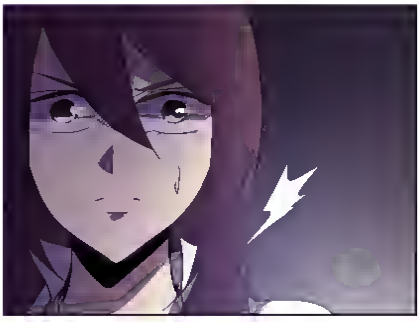
The consequences of that day...



Then .. Airen...
Who painstakingly brought over an Archdevil in order to save you...
And all the efforts of the witches... What was it all for?
It... Could be said that everything was done for the greater good...

In order to protect the clan as a whole... We must be ready to bear any amount of burden.

And there are times...
When lies prove more effective than the truth.

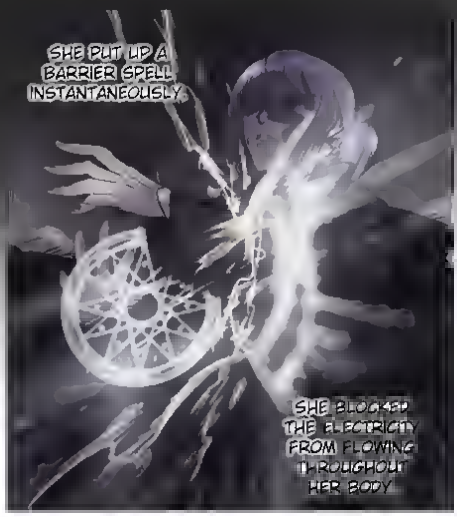


Our talk ends here
Spirit medium ... Although I hold nothing against you, this situation cannot be reversed

I shall now secure your body.
SFX: SHHHHH

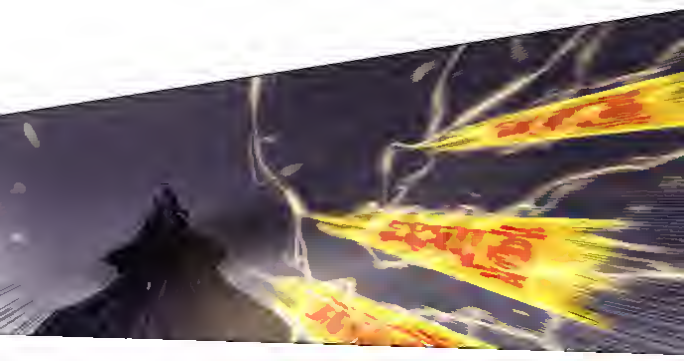
FAUST WAS RIGHT ON THE MARK.
TO THINK THE SUPREME WITCH WAS BEHIND EVERYTHING.

MY OPPONENT IS THE LEADER OF ALL THE WITCHES...
EVEN WHEN I LANDED A TALISMAN BACK THERE...
USUALLY THE LIGHTNING WOULD HAVE CHANNELED THROUGHOUT THE BODY, BUT... IT WAS DIFFERENT FOR THE SUPREME WITCH.


SHE PUT UP A BARRIER SPELL INSTANTANEOUSLY.
SHE BLOCKED THE ELECTRICITY FROM FLOWING THROUGHOUT HER BODY.

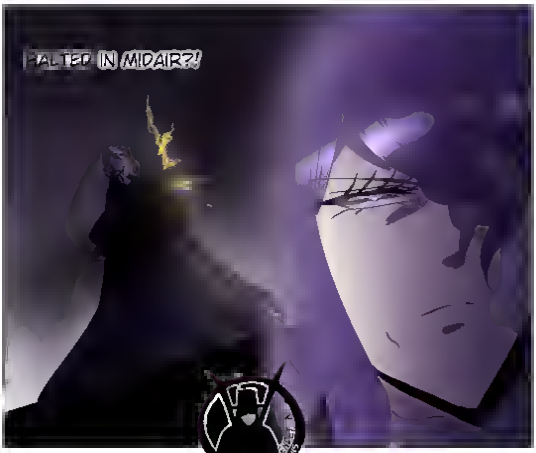
SFX. CRACKLE
HER SKILL... AND EVEN HER JUDGMENT...
EVERYTHING IS ABOVE ME...

SFX. SWOOOSH
I CAN'T AFFORD TO DRAG THIS OUT.
I MUST END THIS QUICKLY.
THUNDER TALISMAN 3-FOLD



SFX: CRAAAACKLE

?!!
MY TALISMANS...?!



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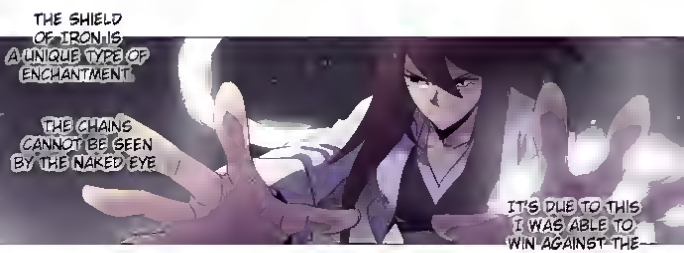
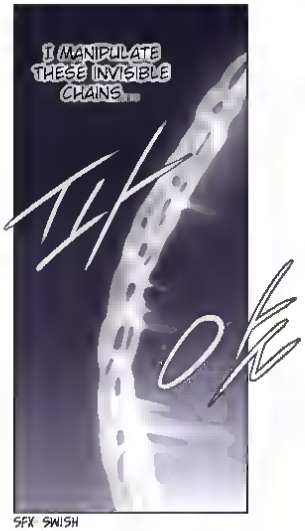
SFX: SHHH

SFX: SHHHH

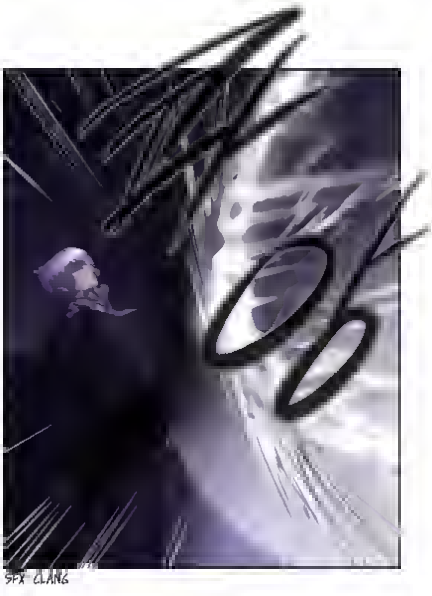

THE SHIELD OF IRON IS A UNIQUE TYPE OF ENCHANTMENT.
THE CHAINS CANNOT BE SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE
IT'S DUE TO THIS I WAS ABLE TO WIN AGAINST THE SOUL HUNTERS.

AFTERWARDS, I POLISHED THIS SKILL IN ORDER TO UTILIZE IT AS A FORM OF ATTACK.



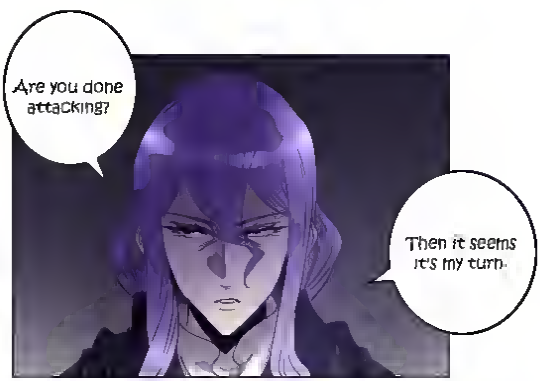
SFX: SWISH

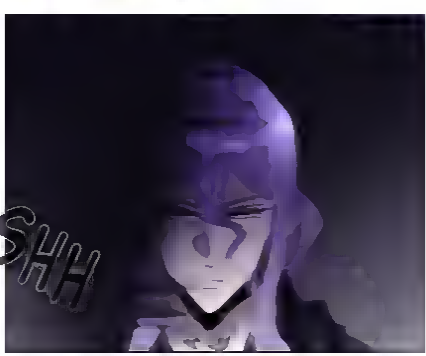
SFX: SWOOSH


SFX CLANG

…!!
SHE EVEN BLOCKED THIS?!

WHAT IS PROTECTING HER..?


Are you done attacking?
Then it seems it's my turn.

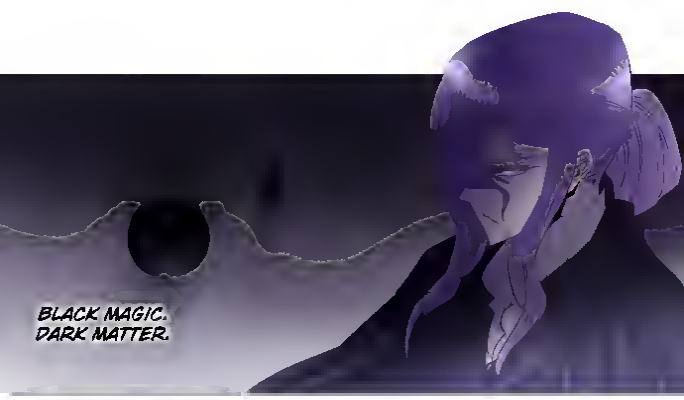

SHH

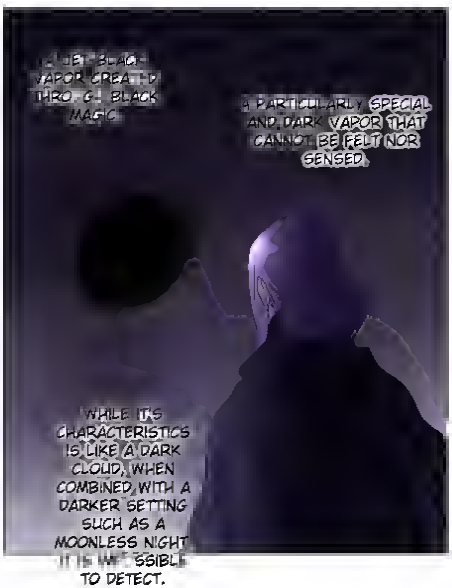
...?!

SHE DISAPPEARED...?!

WHERE IS SHE...?
WHERE DID SHE DISAPPEAR TO?

SFX SWOOSH


BLACK MAGIC.
DARK MATTER.


A BIT BLACK VAPOR CREATED THROUGH BLACK MAGIC
A PARTICULARLY SPECIAL AND DARK VAPOR THAT CANNOT BE FELT NOR SENSED.
WHILE ITS CHARACTERISTICS IS LIKE A DARK CLOUD, WHEN COMBINED WITH A DARKER SETTING SUCH AS A MOONLESS NIGHT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETECT.

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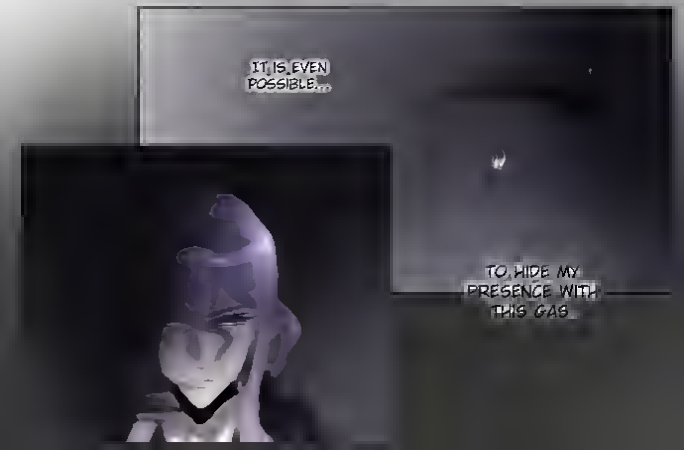


ALMOST AS IF... I AM HIDDEN...
BEHIND A DARK CURTAIN...

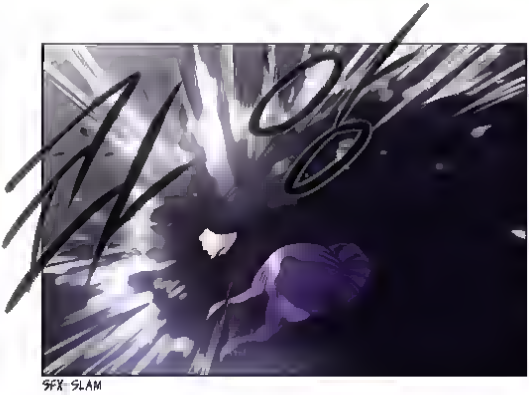
I HAVE ENVELOPED MY OPPONENT WITHIN IT IS JET-BLACK VAPOR.
ALTHOUGH GOD'S PAPYRUS IS CURRENTLY SHIELDING HER FROM THE VAPOR IT IS ONLY ABLE TO SHIELD HER UP TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.
AIR IS COMPLETELY SEALED OFF IN THAT SPHERE.
SHE WON'T LAST LONG.

SPHERICAL SEAL.

I WON'T GO AS FAR TO TAKE HER LIFE.

I WILL WAIT UNTIL SHE LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS

NOW THEN ON TO THE NEXT STEP...

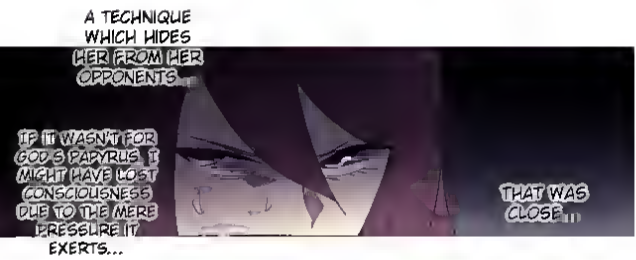


SFX: SLAM

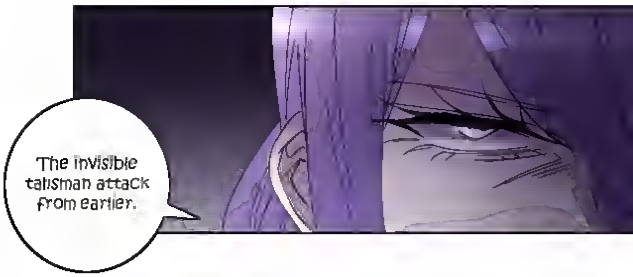
SFX: SKIIIIIIII

SFX: SHHH SHHHHHH

It sure was cramped in there...


A TECHNIQUE WHICH HIDES HER FROM HER OPPONENTS...
IF IT WASN'T FOR GOD'S PAPYRUS, I MIGHT HAVE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS DUE TO THE MERE PRESSURE IT EXERTS...
THAT WAS CLOSE...

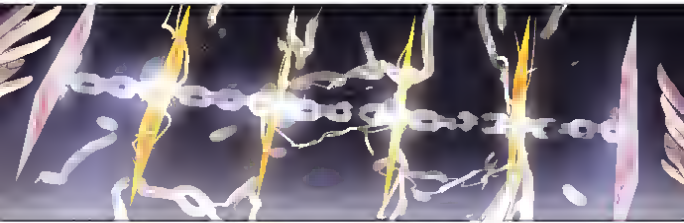
Impressive...
To think you would launch a counterattack even when trapped within the darkness.


The invisible talisman attack from earlier.

It seems you were able to control it from beyond the pitchblack prison.

You shouldn't have known my location... But due to this talisman placed on my left arm...
You were able to sense me.
When you first lost track of my presence, it seems you were at a loss on what to do.
But once you were trapped in the dark vapor, you exhibited excellent judgment and concentration. Truly brilliant.

SSSSS
I should have taken this talisman off before attacking. This is a mistake on my part.
It seems I have underestimated you...
THE SUPREME WITCH'S DARK VAPOR...
TALISMANS... SHIELD OF IRON... NOTHING WORKS.
HOWEVER... EVEN THE SUPREME WITCH CANNOT PIERCE THROUGH GOD'S PAPYRUS.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I JUST NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON ATTACKING.
SFX CRACKLE


I WILL GRASP VICTORY...

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